

GAZETTEER OF INDIA
ASSAM STATE

U. M. & N. C. HILLS DISTRICT
(Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Districts)

T. N. A C No. 10850/45/79

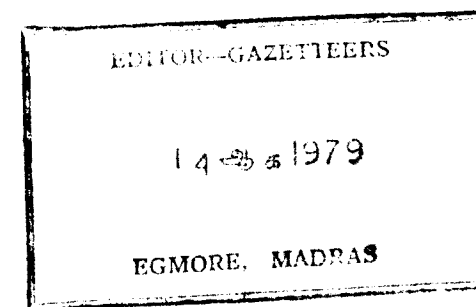
ASSAM DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



U. M. & N. C. HILLS DISTRICT

(Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Districts)

Late Prof. K. N. DUTT

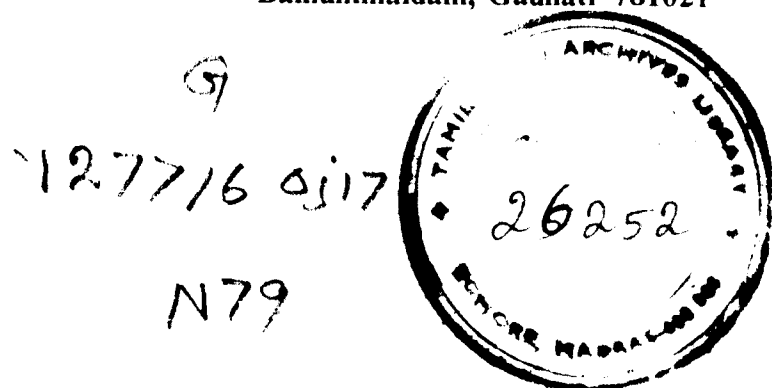


GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
GAUHATI : ASSAM
1979

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FOREWORD

I am very happy to find myself in the position of presenting the District Gazetteer for U. M. & N. C. Hills (Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills) to the learned public of the world. Though belated, it is an important document concerning the political and socio-economic development of the district concerned. I expect, this book will meet the longfelt need of a self contained history of the district to which it relates.

Gauhati
27-3-79.

Shri Lakshya Dhar Choudhury
Minister, Education, Assam.

P R E F A C E

The Government of Assam took up the Revision of District Gazetteers work in 1958 when the State of Assam was comprising of all the hill area around it at its initial stage. The central unit of this office attached to the Department of Education, Government of Assam, had to undertake revision of the Gazetteers for all 7 plains districts and 4 hills districts of post-independent Assam. Subsequently with creation of Meghalaya and Mizoram along with bifurcation and reconstitution of a number of districts, Gazetteers work of only 10 districts in present form remained with us. In the mean time, during the tenure of Late K. N. Dutt, the first Editor entrusted with the job, revision of District Gazetteers for Sibsagar and Lakhimpur were completed and approved by the Govt of India. The work of revision of District Gazetteers for United Mikir and North Cachar Hills was completed in 1966 and sent to the Government of India for approval. The approval of this District Gazetteer was accorded by the Government of India in 1968. But before this Gazetteer could be sent to press the district was bifurcated and constituted into 2 separate districts of Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills in 1970 and some confusion arose in our mind as to the propriety of printing of the District Gazetteer for these 2 autonomous hills districts in one volume. So we moved the Government of India for allowing us to print two separate and independent District Gazetteers for these two districts. Unfortunately the Government of India expressed their regret in the matter and instructed us to print it in its approved form in one volume. After that, in 1973-74 a press was selected for printing the District Gazetteer of U.M. & N.C. Hills. By then a number of developmental schemes were executed in the district and as we were very anxious to enumerate these activities in order to give a correct up-to-date picture of the district, we made efforts to collect these materials anew. While, the work was under process, again in 1976 the name of Mikir Hills district was changed to Karbi Anglong on public demand and this created another confusion. But finally on 13th November 1977, the State Advisory Board for Revision of District Gazetteers, Assam decided that the District Gazetteer for U.M. & N.C. Hills should be printed in its approved form and that there is no necessity to change the title in the present revised work as this might also necessitate fresh approval from the Government of India causing further delay and that this

point should be elucidated in the introduction or preface of the volume. So with our due regards to public opinion and sentiment of Karbi Anglong, we have kept the original name of the district and inserted the new recognised name within the bracket below in the title page. In the text, however, we have replaced the word Mikir and Mikir Hills when it is independently mentioned without any reference to the legally constituted district, Acts, companies or organisations and changed the name Mikir into Karbi whenever it occurred. We also mentioned the old Mikir Hills Sub-division as Karbi Anglong in the text. We hope our brethren in Karbi Anglong and learned readers all over the country will appreciate our difficulties and excuse us our unintended lapses.

For Revision of U.M. & N.C. Hills District Gazetteer, the district office with one Compiler, one U.D.A., one L.D.A-cum-Typist, and one Peon was set-up at Diphu in 1959. Compilation work on revision of District Gazetteers for U.M. & N.C. Hills was completed in 1966 and Diphu office was closed down in 1967. The preliminary draft of the Gazetteer was prepared by Shri Rameshwar Dass, Compiler posted at Diphu. After its approval by the Government of India when the question of printing of this District Gazetteer in the approved form was settled, in August, 1973 the task of preparation of press copy was taken up by Shri N. C. Datta the then Editor-in-Chief, District Gazetteers and Shri Rameshwar Dass, Compiler was entrusted with collection of fresh materials for the Gazetteer in question. As it has been mentioned earlier, the book could not be sent to press, because materials were not ready and also because intensive efforts of the office was concentrated on compilation of Darrang, Nowgong and Goalpara District Gazetteers. In 1978, after specific decision of the State Advisory Board on Revision of District Gazetteers, Assam, Shri Rameshwar Dass and Shri M. C. Bhuyan, both Compilers were detailed to assist me in preparation of the press copy of U.M. & N.C. Hills. Though utmost attempt was made to make the Gazetteer up-to-date till the Census of 1971, for dearth of materials it could not be accomplished properly. For this default we humbly offer our apology to the learned public. We are intending to print supplement to this Gazetteer and also to print 2 independent District Gazetteers for both the hill districts of Assam in near future and for this we expect full co-operation from all the quarters connected with this task. Probably it will not be out of place to mention that without active and sincere co-operation from my staff and colleagues particularly Shri R. D. Talukdar, Srimoti Binata Das, Srimoti Bharati Hazarika, Shri P. K. Barua, all Compilers, Shri Gagan Talukdar, U.D.A., Shri Jogesh Dutta, Steno, and Sri Bhaben Choudhury—

L.D.A. and librarian in the office of the District Gazetteers, it would not have been possible to print this Gazetteer even now. My heartfelt gratitude is due to the honourable members of the State Advisory Board particularly to Shri S. M. L. Bhatnagar, the then Chief Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the Board, without whose firm decision and directive this Gazetteer would have remained un-published. My sincerest thanks are due to all the connected quarters including Govt. departments, public and private institutions and organisations, a number of reputed scholars and other agencies of quasi-government nature, for their active co-operation without which it is never possible to accomplish a gigantic work like compilation of District Gazetteers.

I must also acknowledge the help and suggestions received from Dr. P. N. Chopra, Editor, Gazetteers Unit, Govt. of India and his Central staff, Shri H. K. Barua, Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Education Department, and Shri S. N. Neog, the Senior-most Compiler in the office of the Editor-in-Chief, District Gazetteers, Assam, for their unfailing help and valuable suggestions in bringing out this volume to the public.

There crept in some mistakes here and there due to the defect in procedure in data collection and printing for which we may be excused by our benevolent scholars. I hope this book will serve, as will the others of the Series, the purpose of a good reference book for research scholars and post-graduate students of the country.

S. B. Roy Choudhury

Editor-in-Chief,

District Gazetteers
in Assam, Gauhati.

Gauhati,
30th March, 1979.

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**MEMBERS OF THE STATE ADVISORY BOARD
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9. Commissioner, Planning and Development, Assam.

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8. Commissioners of Divisions, Assam.
9. Commissioner, Planning and Development, Assam.

THANK GIVING

MY THANKS ARE DUE TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICE STAFF :

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|----|----|----|---------------|
| 1. | Shri S. N. Neog, | .. | .. | .. | Compiler. |
| 2. | Shri R. Dass, | .. | .. | .. | ” |
| 3. | Shri M. C. Bhuyan, | .. | .. | .. | ” |
| 4. | Shri P. K. Barua, | .. | .. | .. | ” |
| 5. | Shri R. D. Talukdar, | .. | .. | .. | ” |
| 6. | Miss B. Das, | .. | .. | .. | ” |
| 7. | Miss B. Hazarika, | .. | .. | .. | ” |
| 8. | Miss N. Dalal | .. | .. | .. | Translator, |
| 9. | Shri G. C. Talukdar, | .. | .. | .. | U.D.A. |
| 10. | Shri J. C. Das, | .. | .. | .. | U.D.A. |
| 11. | Shri B. C. Choudhury, | .. | .. | .. | L.D.A. |
| 12. | Shri S.M. Nath, | .. | .. | .. | L.D.A. |
| 13. | Shri J. C. Datta, | .. | .. | .. | Stenographer. |
| 14. | Shri N. Choudhury, | .. | .. | .. | Typist. |
| 15. | Mrs. L. Datta, | .. | .. | .. | ” |
| 16. | Shri M. C. Medhi, | .. | .. | .. | ” |
| 17. | Miss. H. Devi | .. | .. | .. | ” |
| 18. | Shri S. C. Roy, | .. | .. | .. | Duftry. |
| 19. | Shri H. B. Rai, | .. | .. | .. | Peon. |
| 20. | Shri L. Joshi, | .. | .. | .. | Chowkidar. |
| 21. | Shri P. Kalita, | .. | .. | .. | Peon. |
| 22. | Shri R. Ali, | .. | .. | .. | Peon. |

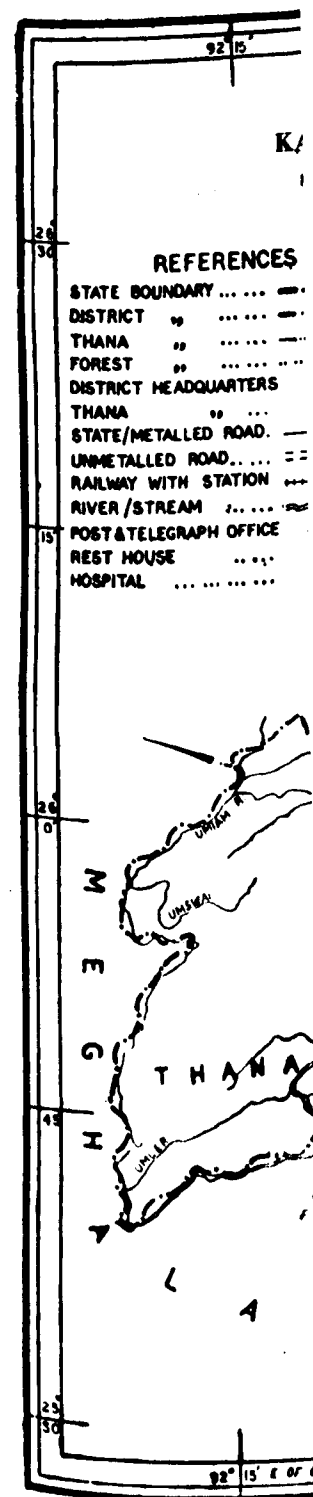
and also the staff in the Finance and Education Departments, Assam ;
who had been dealing with the subject.

Gauhati.
30th March, 1979.

S. B. Roy Choudhury
Editor-in-Chief,
District Gazetteers in Assam,
Gauhati.

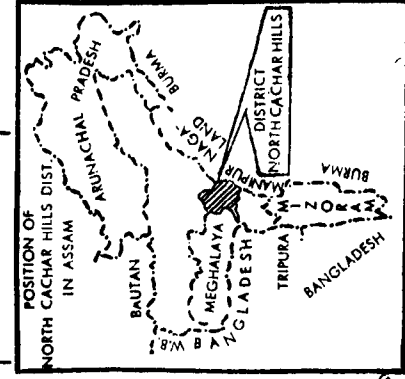
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5. A group dance of the Karbis.
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7. Karbi design.



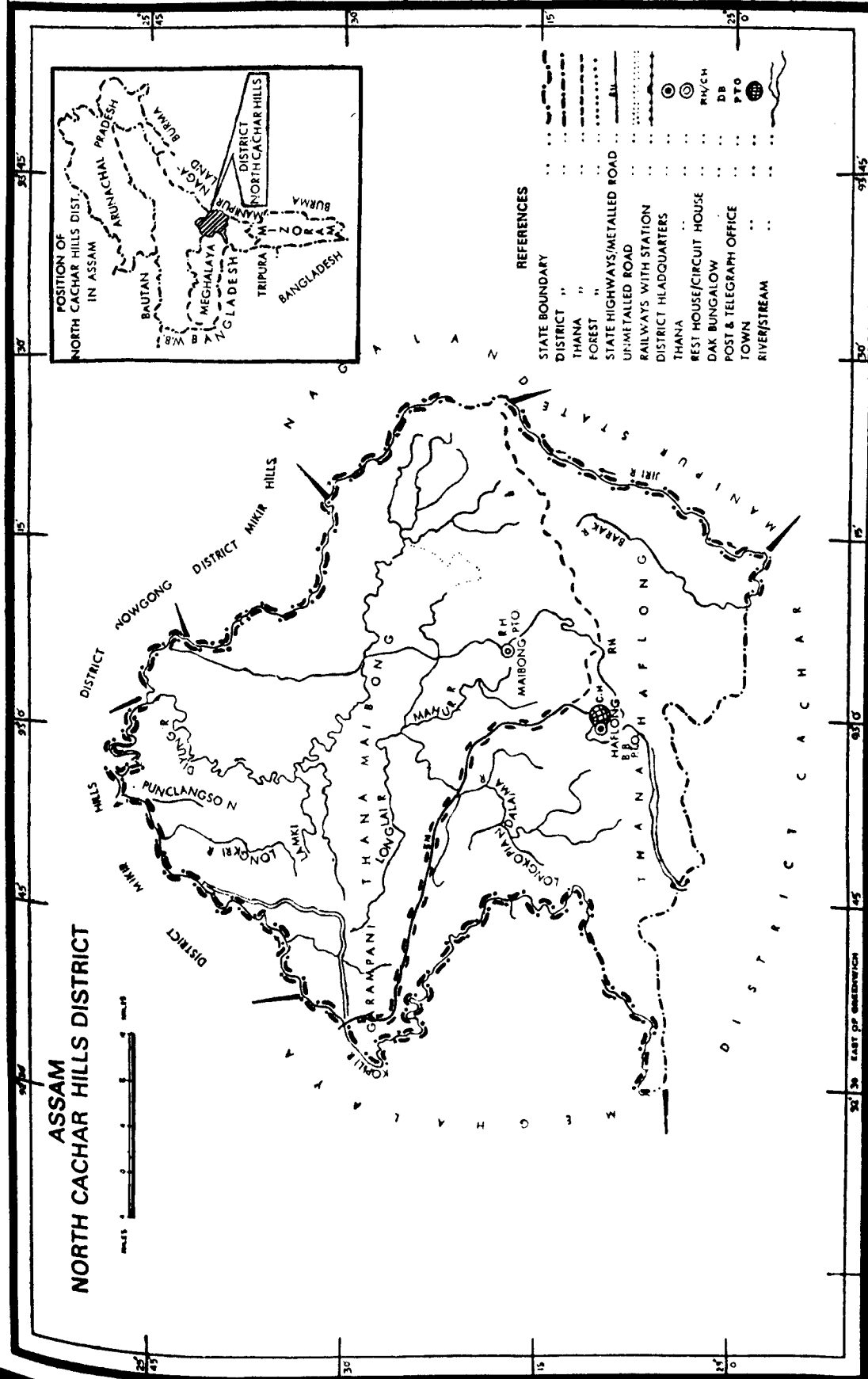
ASSAM NORTH CACHAR HILLS DISTRICT

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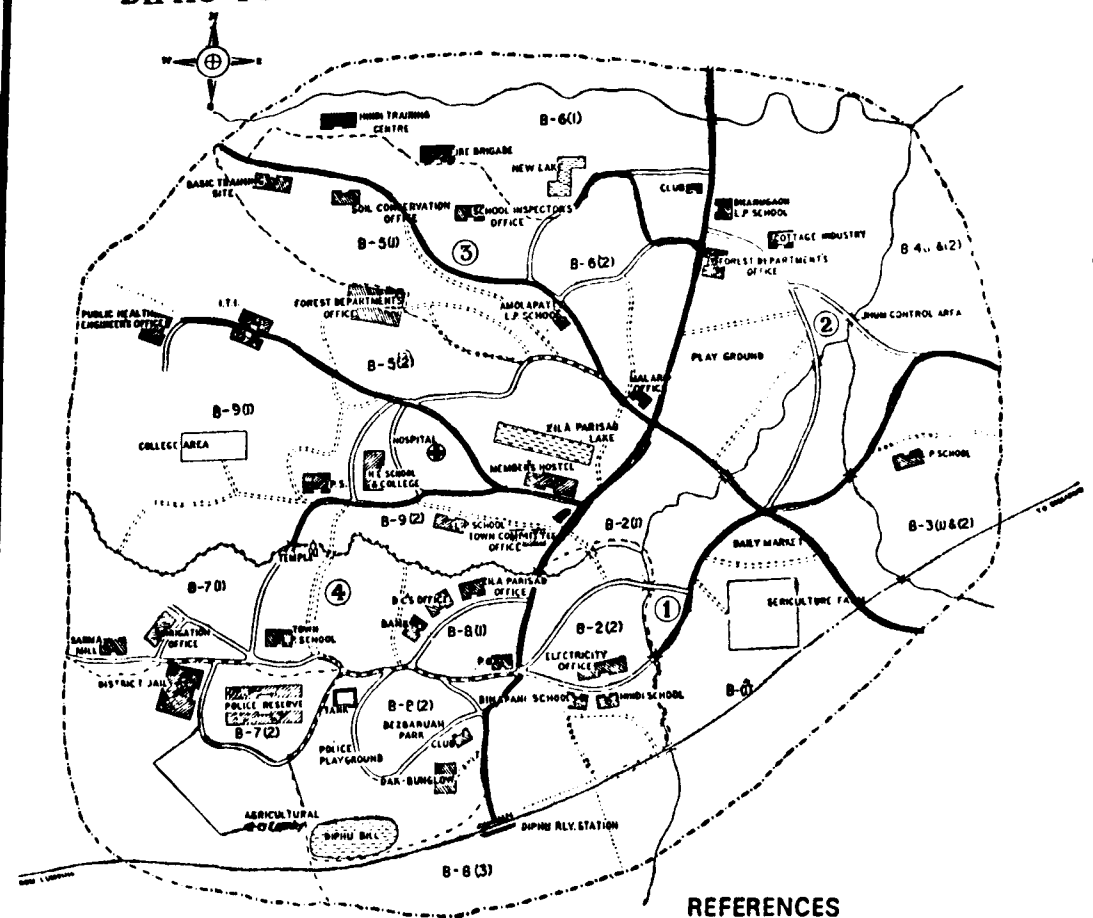


REFERENCES

- STATE BOUNDARY
- DISTRICT "
- THANA "
- FOREST "
- STATE HIGHWAYS/METALLED ROAD
- UN-METALLED ROAD
- RAILWAYS WITH STATION
- DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
- THANA
- REST HOUSE/CIRCUIT HOUSE
- DAK BUNGALOW
- POST & TELEGRAPH OFFICE
- TOWN
- RIVER/STREAM



National Map of DIPHU TOWN



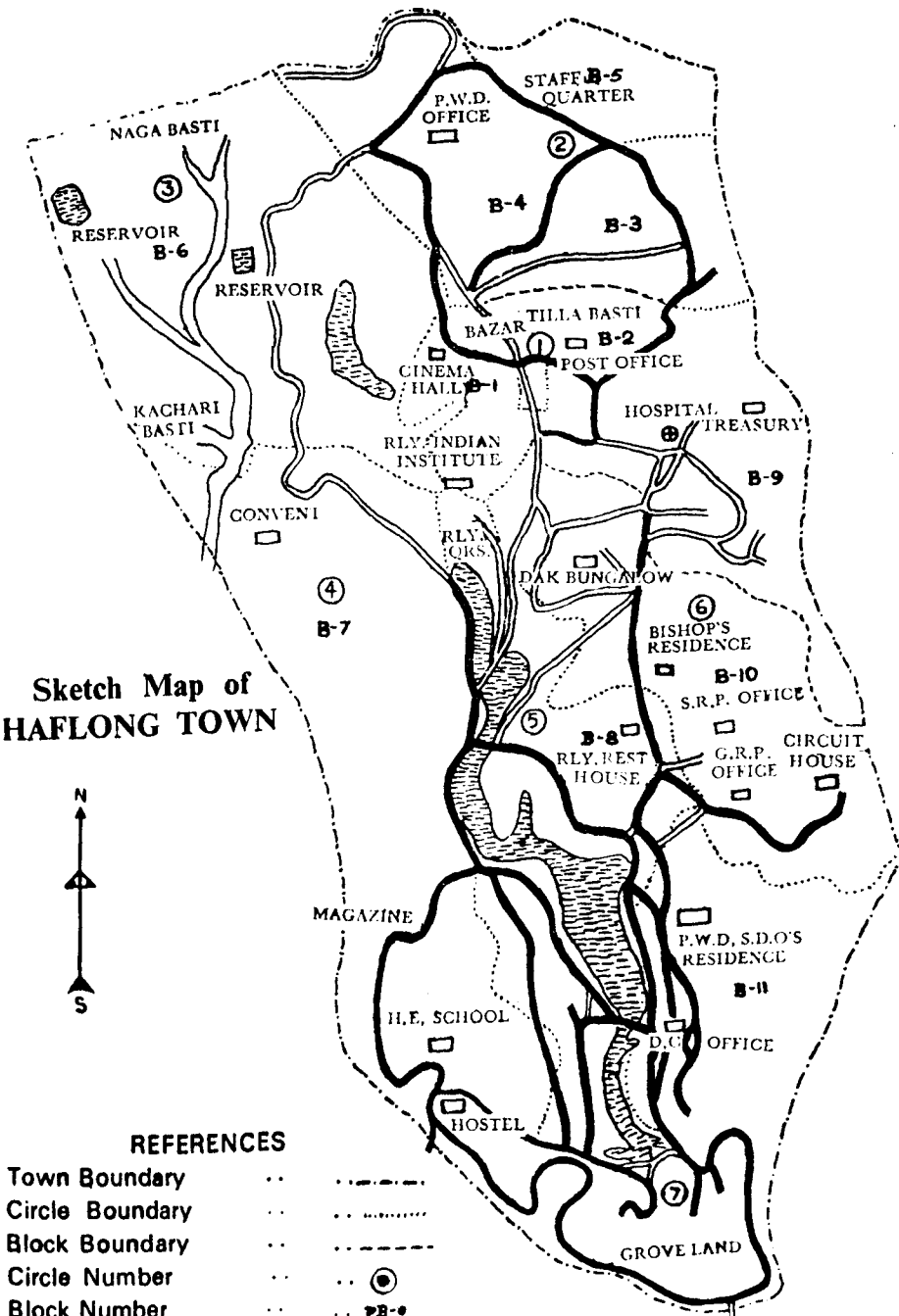
REFERENCES

Town Boundary	..	..	--- --
Circle Boundary	..	..	
Circle Numbers	..	..	●
Metalled Roads	..	..	==
Road	..	..	==
Building (of any type)	..	..	■
Rly. lines with stations	..	..	—●—
Hospitals/P.H.C/Dispensary etc.	..	..	●
Bil, Lake, Tanks & water reservoirs	..	..	■
Park/Market-Place/Mandir etc.	..	..	○
Bridge : on small rivers	..	..	—
River	..	..	—
Block boundary and numbers	..	..	B-●

Sketch Map of
HAFLONG TOWN



REFERENCES		
Town Boundary	---	
Circle Boundary	---	
Block Boundary	---	
Circle Number	⊙	
Block Number	B-6	
Metalled Road	---	
Road	---	
Lake, Bil, Reservoir	---	
Hospital	+	
Office Building	□	





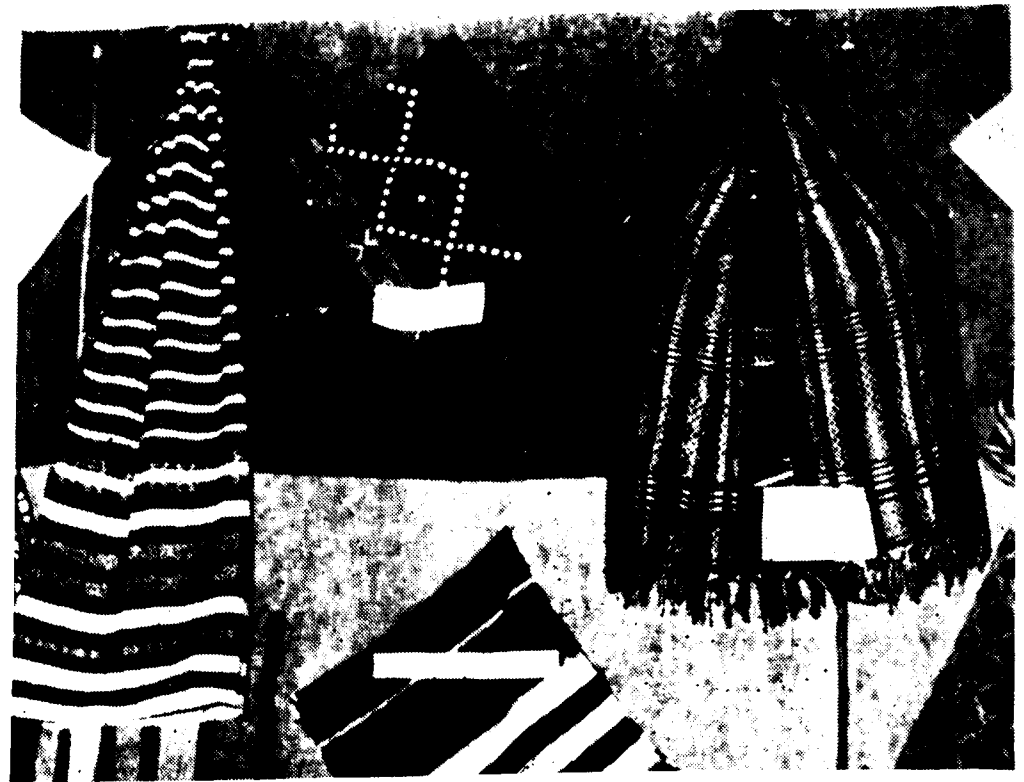
A GROUP DANCE OF THE KARBIS.

By the courtesy of the Directorate of
Publicity and Information, Assam.



A GROUP DANCE OF THE DIMASHA KACHARIS.

By the courtesy of the Directorate of
Publicity and Information, Assam.



KARBI DESIGN.

By the courtesy of the Directorate of
Publicity and Information, Assam.

CHAPTER—1

GENERAL

(a) INTRODUCTORY :

(i) **Origin of the name of the district :** The district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills¹ was constituted on 17th November, 1951 by combining considerable portions of the districts of Sibsagar and Nowgong, formerly known as the Mikir Hills Tracts mainly inhabited by the Karbis and the Bhoi area of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, with the North Cachar Hills Sub-division of the district of Cachar.² As a sub-division of Cachar district, North Cachar Hills was situated in the north of that district and therefore, it was called 'North Cachar Hills'.

(ii) **Location, general boundaries, total area and population :** The district lies between latitudes 24°54' and 26°41' N and longitudes 92°8' and 93°53' E approximately. It is bounded on the north by the district of Nowgong and Sibsagar; on the east by Sibsagar, Nagaland and Manipur; on the south by the Cachar district and the State of Nagaland and on the west by the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district. It covers an area of 15,237 square kilometres with a population of 2,79,726 according to the Census of 1961.³ In 1971, the population of the district increased to 4,55,357 as per census.

-
1. The district is bifurcated and constituted into two separate districts of Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills vide Notification No. AAP.134/68/22 dated 11th Feb. '70 and AAP.134/68/19 dated 30th Jan. '70 respectively but for the purpose of this Gazetteers, it is treated as united one.
 2. The Assam United District of Mikir and North Cachar Hills (Administration) Regulation 1951 (Regulation No. X of 1951) and vide Notification Nos. TAD/R/31/50/190 dated 27.8.51; TAD/R/31/50/204 dated 3rd Nov. 1951 and TAD/R/31/50/205 dated 8th Nov. 1951.
 3. *Census of India 1961, Assam District Census Hand Book, United Mikir & North Cachar Hills District* P.21. There has been slight discrepancy in the area figure of the district in censuses. In the district Census Hand Book of 1951 at page 95 it is shown as 5,883 square miles and on page (I) 'Introduction' it is shown as 5,891.7 square miles. The District Census Hand Book 1961, at page I shows it as 5,883 sq. miles or 15,237 square kilometres.

(iii) **History of the district as an administrative unit :** Constituted as it was under the Assam Regulation X of 1951, the district with an area of 5,891.7 square miles or 15,237 sq. kms. came into being on 17th November, 1951, and as such its history as an administrative unit is not even two decades old. But it is possible to trace the history of its component parts to some extent. The erstwhile Mikir Hills sub-division which now constitute the Karbi Anglong was constituted out of the Partially Excluded Areas of the district of Sibsagar and Nowgong, then known as the Mikir Hills Tracts in those districts and the Bhoi area of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills predominantly inhabited by the Karbis with a view to bringing the hitherto scattered Karbi people under one administration for their all-round improvement. The Karbi Anglong alone covers an area of 3,995 square miles or 10,343.05 square kilometres of which 1,707 square miles or 4,421.12 square kilometres came from Nowgong district, 1,692 square miles or 4,382.28 square kilometres from Sibsagar district and 596 sq. miles or 1,543.64 square kilometres from Khasi and Jaintia Hills district.⁴

In 1853, the North Cachar Hills was formed into a separate sub-division, and in the following year the territory which had been made over to Tularam Senapati by the British in 1832 was added to this charge. In 1867, this sub-division was abolished and the area was placed under the management of the Deputy Commissioner of the Cachar district. Nothing, however, was done until 1880, when the North Cachar Hills was formed into a separate sub-division of the district of Cachar, and placed in charge of the Assistant Superintendent of Police. Since then, it had a different administrative set-up from the rest of that district. It was known as an 'Excluded Area' and was under the direct rule of the Governor. After Independence, the Constitution of India gave the status of an autonomous district to both North Cachar Hills and the Karbi Anglong like other autonomous hill districts of Assam, and it was found expedient to unite these two autonomous districts to form one district administration, while keeping intact the autonomous status of each of these areas. Thus two autonomous districts have been brought under one administrative whole, having two separate District Councils independent of each other, while there was one Deputy Commissioner's establishment with head-quarters at Diphu.

4. *Census, 1951, United Mikir & North Cachar Hills District Census Hand Book*, p.95.

(iv) **Sub-divisions and Thanas :** The district has two sub-divisions namely Mikir Hills sub-division and North Cachar Hills sub-division. The first named sub-division is now known as Karbi Anglong. The following table shows the area and population of the sub-divisions as per the Census of 1961.⁵

Name	Area in sq.miles	sq.kms.	Population ..		
			Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Karbi Anglong	3,995	10,946	1,21,040	1,04,367	2,25,407
2. North Cachar Hills.	1,880	4,889.91	29,087	25,232	54,319

As per 1971 Census, male population of Karbi Anglong increased to 2,02,347 and that of female to 1,76,963.

Revenue Circle : The district has four revenue circles of which three are in Karbi Anglong. The whole of the North Cachar Hills comprises one revenue circle. The following table shows the area of each revenue circle.⁶

Name	Name of the revenue circle	Area in square miles or sq. kilometres.
1	2	3
1. Karbi Anglong	(i) Diphu Circle	1,598 sq.miles or 4,438.81 sq. kms.
	(ii) Phuloni Circle	1,222 „ „ 3,164.97 „ „
	(iii) Donka Circle	1,174 „ „ 3,340.64 „ „
	Total area	3,994 sq.miles 10,944.42 sq.kms.
2. North Ca- char Hills	(i) North Cachar Hills circle.	1,888 sq.miles or 4,889.91 sq.kms.

5. On 1st of January, 1972, a new Sub-division known as 'Hamren Sub-division' comprising the whole of the Baithalangso Police Station has been created with sub-divisional Head-quarters at Hamren out of Mikir Hills sub-division (present Karbi Anglong).

6. It may be mentioned that there is discrepancy of some sq. miles between the total area of the revenue circles and the total area of Karbi Anglong. This is due to the fact that most of the area in the Sub-division especially the hilly region, is not cadastrally surveyed.

Each revenue circle comprises two or more *mauzas* which are composed of a number of villages. There are altogether 20 *mauzas* in Karbi Anglong and 19 *mauzas* in North Cachar Hills but the *mauzas* in the latter are not territorially delimited. These are constituted tribewise the larger tribes having more than one *mauza*. As the different tribes live interspersed in many areas, these *mauzas* overlap territorially.

Thanas : There are five Police Stations in the district, of which four Police Stations are in the Karbi Anglong and one Police Station in the North Cachar Hills. The following table shows the area and population of each Police Station in the district as per the Census of 1961 :

Yer	Name	Name of the Police Station	Area in sq.miles	Population		
				Male	Female	Total
Karbi Anglong	1.	Baithalangso P.S.	1,172	33,617	30,941	64,558
	2.	Howraghat P.S.	767	39,026	33,872	72,898
	3.	Bokajan P.S.	880	29,894	25,601	55,495
	4.	Diphu P.S.	1,176	18,503	13,953	32,456
North Cachar Hills.	5.	Haflong P.S.	1,888	29,087	25,232	54,319

Note : 386102 sq. mile is equal to one square kilometres.

Besides, there are Police Out-Posts under some of the Police Stations. Police out-post at Mohendijua is under Diphu P.S.; Borpathar and Dillai under Bokajan P.S., Dokmoka under Howraghat P.S., and Donkamokam under Baithalangso P.S. There is one investigating centre at Grampani.

(b) TOPOGRAPHY :

(i) **Natural division, Elevation, Configuration etc. :** The Karbi Anglong is divided into two detached parts by a portion of the district

7. With the creation of Hamren sub-division in Karbi Anglong a new Police Station known as Hamren Police Station has been created out of Baithalangso Police Station with a sanctioned staff of 1 Sub-Inspector, 2 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 12 Constables. Another Police Station viz Maibong Police Station with an area of 1,132 sq. kms has been created in North Cachar Hills.

of Nowgong jutting into it and the contiguity of it as a whole has been maintained only by the North Cachar Hills linking up this gap between the eastern and western parts of the Karbi Anglong. The whole subdivision is covered by hills, excepting the narrow strips of flat lands on the border along the banks of the Kopili, the Jamuna, the Dhansiri and the Barapani rivers. Apart from this natural division into hills and plains it may be of interest to know the regional division commonly prevailing amongst the Karbi, basing on their tradition. The western part of the sub-division, which is the seat of the Karbi culture is divided into three regions known as *Chinthong*, *Ronghang* and *Amri*, following the *Ahels* or groups into which the Karbi people are divided, while the whole of the eastern part is called *Nilip*, excepting the area covered by Jamunapar *Mauza*, which is called *Lumbajang*. But for the portion connecting the North Cachar Hills sub-division on the south, the eastern part of the Karbi Anglong is covered with hills which end on the north at the plains of the Brahmaputra, and on the east and west at the plains of the Dhansiri and Jamuna valleys respectively. They rise sharply from the narrow valleys with which they are intersected and are covered with dense-tree forests, except in places where they have been cleared for the shifting cultivation by the tribal people. These hills support a scanty population who grow dry rice, vegetables, cotton, mustard and sesamum on the slopes and are seldom visited by the natives of the plains. The upper reaches of the Dhansiri and the Kaliani are covered with dense-tree forest which is almost entirely destitute of population. "A wonderful view of this forest can be obtained from one of the outer ranges of the Naga Hills. North, east, and west, as far as the eye can reach, there is nothing but a pathless wilderness of trees. In the far distance on the north the blue ranges of the Mikir Hills can be discerned from some twentyfive miles away, but on the east and west there is forest *et proeterea nihil*. The Mikir Hills consist of a mass of sharply serrated ridges, whose steeply sloping sides are green with creeper smothered trees and the bamboo jungle that springs up on the sites of the following *jhums*. The outer ranges are not more than 1,500 ft. in height, but further back there are hills whose summits are 4,000 ft. and more above the level of the sea. Dotted about amongst these forests are to be found the villages of the Mikirs, villages that sometimes consist of but one or two huge houses, each of which accommodates a family of truly patriarchal proportions."⁸

8. B. C. Allen ; *Assam District Gazetteers*, volume, VII, Sibesar, Allahabad, 1906. pp.4-5.

The western portion of the sub-division, except the narrow strips of flat lands along the Kopili and the Barapani rivers is also covered by the hills belonging to United Khasi & Jaintia Hills group of hills, whose elevation varies from 500 ft. (152.40 metres) to near about 4,000 ft. (1219.20 metres) above the sea level. These hills have less forest than those of the eastern part of the sub-division. The density of population of these hills being more than that of the eastern hills, most of them have already been heavily jhummed out, which having been followed by intensive grazing by the cattle of the Nepali *Khuties* have been rendered nothing but green pastures. The lands in between the slope of the grass covered hills have, in most places, been turned into narrow patches of paddy fields by the Karbis and the other tribal people of the area. In the higher regions, specially of Rongkhang and Duaramala, the country has very much the same appearance as that of the hills of the eastern part of Karbi Anglong.

Of the plains portion of the district, the Jamuna valley is by far the largest and the most thickly populated area in the whole district. This portion was previously covered by dense forest and thick *jungle*, but during the last one decade or two specially after the Independence, there is a heavy rush of immigrants, from both hills and plains coming into the area in search of land, and consequently the whole valley has practically been cleared and occupied. The next in importance and size is the Kopili valley, including the plains of the Barapani river. This area is also fast being depleted of the *jungles* that surrounded it till very recently and big villages are coming up with almost equal rapidity. The Dhansiri valley is much narrower than either of the two mentioned above, but this area from Dhansiri to Borpathar has long been cleared of the forest that once covered it and settled villages are in existence here since a petty long time.

With the exception of an insignificant tract of level land in the angle formed by the junction of the Kopili and the Doiang, the whole of the North Cachar Hills Sub-division, which covers an area of 4,890 square kilometres is a hilly country. "From the Jaintia Hills to a point a little to the west of Asalu, the Barail or 'great dyke' runs almost east and west across the district, and forms a continuous wall of mountains, gradually increasing in height towards the east."⁹ At Kalangtam it enters the Cachar district and to the south east of Haflong this range takes

a sharp turn towards the north and reaches its greatest height in Hampeopet. From this point it gradually starts declining in height. To the north of the Barail the whole of the country is described as a mass of hilly country with the general tendency of the hills to run north and south. The upper portions of the hills are covered with dense tree forests but lower slopes are generally cleared for shifting cultivation by the hill-men and during the period that intervenes between the each period of cultivation, hills are covered with a dense growth of high grass *jungles* and bamboos. South of the Barail there is also a belt of hilly country with a general trend from north east to south-west.¹⁰

(ii) **Hills : Mountain system to which they belong, main peaks etc.** : Broadly, the district can be divided into three main physiographic divisions, namely the Karbi Anglong proper, the United Kopili, Jamuna and Dhansiri valleys, and the hills of the North Cachar. The Karbi Anglong proper is a detached continuation of the "Peninsular shield" and is the oldest land mass in the district. This group of hills is of relict type and has been subjected to extreme weathering and denudation, as a consequence of which it forms an extremely rugged and highly dissected terrain rising rather sharply from the surrounding plains. The outer ranges of the Karbi Anglong have an average elevation of about 450 metres (1485') above mean sea level, whereas in the central portion of the Karbi Anglong the average elevation of the range is around 1,000 metres (3,300') above mean sea level.

The Karbi Anglong can be divided into two distinct units (i) the northern range of hills having an average elevation of about 600 metres extending from Dabaka in the south-west to Bokakhat in the north-east, and (2) the higher southern range having an average elevation of about 900 metres extending from Bakulaighat in the south-west to Borpathar in the north-east. The western spurs of Karbi Anglong rise steeply from the narrow valley of Kaliani river which separates the two divisions. The main peaks along the northern and southern ranges are Bishandori Parbat, Kud Parbat, Mokrang Parbat, Mchekongthu', Raidang Kankochan peak, Chenghetishon, Matikhala Parbat, Warckmushak, Bargarichang Parbat, Bhaluk Parbat, Cheniabirshon, Hunghi Parbat, Khunbaman Parbat and others.

The United Kopili, Jamuna and Dhansiri valleys between Lumding, Hojai and Diphu is an undulating plain having an elevation ranging

9. B. C. Allen, *Assam District Gazetteers*, vol. I Cachar, Calcutta 1905. p.2.

10. *Ibid*, p.3.

from 75 to 250 metres (246 to 821 feet). This low land is wedged in between the Karbi Anglong in the north, Barail range in the south-east and the North Cachar Hills in the south and south-west, Longlai, Samkher, Inlonggri and other low hills within the Lumding reserve forest north of Lumding form main watershed between the Dhansiri valley in the east, Jamuna valley in the north and the Kopili valley in the west.

The North Cachar hills division forms a rugged hilly country constituting the eastern flanks of the Jaintia hills and northern flanks of the Barail range, the latter forming the water divide between the Dhansiri valley in the north and the Surma valley in the south. The Barail range along the Southern boundary of the district trends north-east-South-west south of Haflong and swings nearly east-west towards the west of Haflong connecting with the eastern flank of the Jaintia hills. The elevation of the Barail range varies from 1,000 to 1,200 metres above mean sea level, the high peaks along the range being Jhingtubum, Nairakula, Hemeolowa, Mahadeo, Kaukaha, Kolombot, Sherpai and Kalangtom. Longmai Laikarang, Daojali Parbat, Sarkahading and other northeast-southwest trending low ranges flank the northern slopes of the Barail range constituting Langting-Mupa reserved forest.

The eastern flanks of the Jaintia hills consist of Saipong and Kurunming Reserved Forests hills along the eastern side of the Kopili valley, and Sunngut, Bura Ingti etc., hills on the north-west side of Kopili river. The general elevation of these hills vary from 600 to 900 metres (1980 to 3267 feet) and the chief peaks are Kalimukh, Thangnanship Tila, Merpung, Khorungina, Konglong, Sunngut, Rongkhong and Tirkim.¹¹

(c) RIVER SYSTEM & WATER RESOURCES :

(i) **Main rivers and tributaries** : The drainage of the district is towards the north into the Brahmaputra. The Dhansiri river in the north-east and the Kopili, Doiang and Jamuna in the west constitute the two main drainage basins of the district. The Karbi Anglong proper shows a radical drainage pattern with the rivers and streams flowing south into the Jamuna valley, west into the Kopili valley and north into the Brahmaputra river. Apart from the Jamuna river, the other important rivers in Karbi Anglong are the Kaliani river flowing east-north east across

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the hills in the north eastern part of Karbi Anglong ; the Diphu *nadi* on the northern slopes near Bokakhat, the Deopani and the Kaipani *nalas* on the north western slopes of Karbi Anglong ; Langkangtang *nala* and tributaries of Nanai *nadi* on the western slopes and the Bar Dikharu, Horaghati, Chelabor *nalas* on the south western slopes. Following is the account of the main rivers of the district.

The Kopili : The Kopili river which rises in the Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya) flows north and north-east winding through the Jaintia Hills and North Cachar Hills. Its main tributaries in the North Cachar Hills Sub-division are the Dikisim, the Wohkhyrniam, the Umphung, the Kharkor, the Umsong, the Myntang and the Amring. The river enters the North Cachar Hills at its confluence with the Wohkhyrniam river and forms the boundary between the North Cachar Hills Sub-division and Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya till its confluence with the Myntang river, a little above the *Garampani* which is known for its hot water spring. Hence upto Doiangmukh it forms a boundary between the North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong and thence after running entirely within the Karbi Anglong for some distance, it runs all along the boundary with Nowgong district.

After meeting the Amring river (known as Mynrian in its upper reaches) at a place near Panimur (or *Longjut* i.e. the end of the rocks) it is joined by the Doiang river below the foothills and the combined channel flows in a north-westerly direction. At Jamunamukh in Nowgong district it is met by its eastern tributary the Jamuna, and flows past Raha after taking a westernly turn. Here it is joined by a branch channel with Kalang and at Jagi it finally meets the main stream of the Kalang after a course of 262 kms. The combined channel after flowing north-west finds its way into the mighty Brahmaputra near Kajalimukh in Nowgong district. The principal tributaries on the right bank are the Doiang, the Lankajan and the Jamuna which is swelled by the waters of the Dimoru, the Dighalpani, the Horagati and the Buriganga streams. On the left bank, the Kopili is joined by the Kolanga, Barapani and the Umiam (Killing) rivers.

The river is navigable up to Panimur by boats of four tons burden during the summer. It is one of the main channel of trade and commerce. Articles like salt, dry fish, tea leaves and other necessities of the tribal people are carried by small boats even up to the Kolanga Bazar and cotton, mustard seed, lac, sesamum and other hill products form the cargo of these boats on their down journey. The Kopili and its tribu-

¹¹ From the Report submitted by the Geological Survey of India, Shillong.

tary Amring also provide good sport and the rapids of Panimur to those who are interested in angling.

The Kopili basin which comprises an area of 500 sq.miles or about 1300 sq.kms may be described as a rich rice bowl of Assam. *Ahu*, *Sali* and *Bao* paddy and jute are the major crops grown in this basin. Because of its low level, the basin is subject to damaging floods quite frequently. High floods occurred in 1931, 1934, 1946, 1948, 1949 and 1956, of which the floods in 1934 had been described as the highest in the living memory. It is still popularly remembered as the '*Balia Pani*' (mad water) of 1934. In that year the Kopili catchment produced a flood of eleven lakh cusecs whereas the discharges of other floods ranged between 30,000 and 50,000 cusecs. The following tables show the maximum and minimum discharges of the Kopili in cusecs from 1956 to 1959 and the silt content of the Kopili from 1955 to 1959.¹²

Year	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Maximum discharge in cusecs ..	30,882	47,063	26,604	33,874	35,863
Date ..	13.3.55	23.6.56	30.6.57	15.5.58	23.6.59
Minimum discharge in cusecs ..	1,186	1,564	838	815	1,169
Date ..	18.3.55	22.4.56	30.3.57	28.2.58	16.4.59
Progressive total					

Year	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Kind	Acrs. ft.	Acre. ft.	Acre ft.	Acre. ft.	Acre. ft.
Coarse	32.77	92.31	67.37	115.10	122.45
Medium	209.28	356.76	234.66	626.82	314.27
Fine	716.37	1,737.24	1,393.87	2,647. 0	2,921.51

12. *Out lines of Flood Control for Assam Vol. I* pp.64 and 184-85.

There are four waterfalls on the Kopili river system (i) A 20ft. (6.09 m.) falls is situated at 25°44' 30", 92°49' on the Amring river, the tributary of Kopili; (ii) a 20ft. (6.09 m.) falls is situated at 25°44', 92°50' on the river Kopili. (iii) a 45 ft. (13.71 m) falls is situated at 25°43', 92°50' on the river Kopili and (iv) one 60 ft. (18.28 m.) falls is situated at the confluence of Kopili and Karkar river.

The Barapani : The Barapani rises in the Shillong Hills, and enters the Karbi Anglong just below its confluence with the Umlew, thus forming the southern boundary of the Sub-division with Jowai district of Meghalaya State upto the mouth of the Umshunam. It cuts right through Block II, coming out again at Amtreng and thereafter forms the western boundary of the Sub-division with Nowgong upto the Lutumai Reserved Forests whence it enters the plains of Nowgong, ultimately joining with the Kopili near Chaparmukh. In its upper reaches, it is known as Umkhen. As the source of the river lies in a region of heavy precipitation, it brings down a large discharge and while passing through the low lying areas it spills copiously right from the foothills. When in floods, it also holds up the Kopili flood on the up stream and greatly floods the Baithalangso area. All through its course in the Karbi Anglong the river passes through deep gorges and cannot be utilized for trade and commerce. Boats can ply only up to Amtreng and to that extent it formed the life-line of trade and commerce of the Western Karbi Anglong with big markets of Baithalangso and Amtreng. But with the opening of the Kamrup-Baithalangso Road the importance of the river as a channel of trade and commerce has gone down considerably. Its tributaries are the Mynth, the Ummat, Umted and the Myntring.

The Jamuna : The Jamuna or 'Dijen' as it is called by the Dimasa Kacharies, rises in the ranges of the Khanbamun hills and drains the whole of the southern portion of the eastern hills of the Karbi Anglong. It enters the Nowgong district at the eastern boundary of Namati mauza of that district forming a common boundary between Karbi Anglong and Nowgong up to the junction of the Duar-dikharu, then it flows through Nowgong meeting the Kopili near Jamuna-mukh Railway Station. From its source, it covers from east to west a distance of about 75 miles or 120 kilometres before it meets the Kopili. The river is navigable upto Silbheta and can be used for trade and commerce up to that point only, beyond which no boat can ply due to rapids. Its main tributaries are the Dikharu, the Dikak, the Patridisa, the Disobai Nala, the Longhit, the Dillai and the Diphu Nala, the Disama Nala, the Pakingso Nala, the Keyong Disa Nala and others. The river

has a flood slope of 1 in 5,500 ft. (about 1,650 metres) and bankful capacity of 10,000 cusecs of water at its discharge site.

The Umium : The Umium which is also called the Killing in its lower portion originates from the high altitudes of Shillong hills and flows from south to north. It enters Karbi Anglong from the confluence of the Umlet and forms a considerable part of its western boundary with the Meghalaya State till it meets the boundary of Duramala *mauza* when it debouches into the plains of Nowgong and ultimately meets the Kopili at Naldhara Noa bil four kilometres up stream of the railway bridge over the Kopili. The river in its hilly region flows a stable course and carries no silt. The bed of the river consists of boulders and gravels. The maximum and minimum discharges of water in cusecs and silt content of the Killing river are given in two separate tables below from 1955 to 1959.

Year	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Maximum discharge (in cusecs) and Date	9,548 27.7.55	11,862 6.6.56	5,123 24.6.57	6,792 21.8.58	3,554 14.6.59
Minimum discharge (in cusecs) and Date	223 24.4.55	243 20.4.56	178 26.4.57	136 30.3.58	177 23.5.59

Progressive total

Year	1956	1957	1958	1959
Kind	Acre ft.	Acre ft.	Acre ft.	Acre ft.
Coarse	4.63	1.90	8.47	13.23
Medium	26.24	5.91	16.96	14.96
Fine	169.47	41.32	65.63	60.44

The Dhansiri : The Dhansiri river which rises in the south-west corner of the Naga hills below the Laishiang peak enters the Karbi Anglong at the confluence of the Watidisa river which is also a trijunction of Karbi Anglong, North Cachar Hills and Nagaland State and but for a little portion near about Dimapur it forms the entire eastern boundary of Karbi Anglong. The Dimasa Kacharis calls the river *Dima* (*Di*—river, *Ma*—big, meaning big river) and the name of the old city, Dimapur, situated on its bank was named after it. It is joined by its tributaries at various points and it drains the whole of the eastern portion of the district bordering on the Sibsagar district. The total length of the river from its source upto its confluence with the Brahmaputra at Dhansirimukh is approximately 220 miles or 354 kms. For the first 23 miles or 37 kms. from the source, the river flows in a north-westerly direction whereafter turning to the north-east it flows for about 47 miles (75.635 kms) upto Dimapur, thereafter the direction of flow is generally northerly upto Golaghat. Here the river takes an abrupt turn to west and ultimately joins the mighty river Brahmaputra near Dhansirimukh opposite to Majuli island.

Its river course can be divided into two reaches i.e., (a) from its source upto the confluence of the Doyang and (b) from the Doyang confluence to the Brahmaputra confluence. Very little is known about the river in its up stream till its confluence with the Doyang as it passes through a valley covered with dense vegetation and impenetrable forests inhabited by wild elephants. Its section is narrow and the discharge is also not much in this reach but beyond the Doyang confluence the discharge increases considerably as it is fed by several streams.

Throughout its course, the river meanders which is very much marked, down streams of Golaghat Town. Beyond Golaghat upto its out-fall in to the Brahmaputra, there are altogether 18 high loops in the river and at places it is found that the river meanders a distance of 3 miles (about 5 kms.) in a straight reach of 6 furlongs (about 1.2 kms) only. About 2 miles (about 3.2 kms.) up stream of its confluence with the Brahmaputra, near a place called Kuruabahi, there exists a big island of about 2000 ft. (609 m.) in length in the river. Down stream of the Dimapur (Nagaland) the banks of the river are low at several places where the river overflows during the floods and inundates large areas of the land. The river is navigable upto Bokajan by small country boats. Besides the Doyang, the main tributaries of the Dhansiri river are the Deopani, the Nambarnadi, the Daigrung, the Kaliani and the Diphu river. The catchment area of the Dhansiri is approximately 4,766

sq. miles (12,334 sq.kms). The flood slope of the river from foot hills to Assam Trunk Road (South) and from Assam Trunk Road to out-fall was 3' and 1.5' per mile respectively. Its bankful capacity, 2 miles (about 3.2 kms) above the Assam Trunk Road was approximately of 46,000 cusecs. The table shows, the maximum and minimum discharges in cusecs from 1956 to 1959 and silt content statement of the Dhansiri river for the years 1957, 1958 and 1959.

Year					
Year	1956	1957	1958	1959	
Maximum discharge in cusecs	49,760	41,746	43,828	81,074	
Date	14.8.56	22.7.57	26.7.58	16.8.59	
Minimum discharge in cusecs	596	518	516	560	
Date	20.4.56	23.4.57	18.3.58	23.3.59	
1957		1958		1959	
Yearly total	% of silt content	Yearly total	% of silt content.	Yearly total	of silt content
4,113.73	0.087	5,799.45	0.12318	9,365.35	0.1809

Among the other important rivers and streamlets of Karbi Anglong mention may be made of the Nambar, the Doigrung, the Kaliani, the Kalanga, the Horguti, the Dikharu, the Diphu and the Harina. The Nambar, the Doigrung and the Kaliani are the tributaries of the river Dhansiri and rise from Karbi Anglong. Very little information about these rivers are available as all of them flow through thick reserved forests. The discharge of these rivers are very low and fluctuating in nature as all of them are hilly streams. The river Kalanga originates from Karbi Anglong and passes through Rongkhang

area and falls in the river Kopili. The river Horguti rises from the Singahasan *Parbat* in Karbi Anglong and after passing through the plains area finds its way into the Dikharu river. The river is perennial and carries a volume of water varying from 1,500 cusecs to 9 cusecs during the year. The river has an catchment area of about 4,600 square kilometres. The river is under investigation for construction of an irrigation project cost of which is estimated to be about Rs.46 lakhs. The river Dikharu originates from the Thankleng *Pahar* in Karbi Anglong and after flowing through Duardikharu and Namati *mauzas* it meets the Horguti and ultimately find its way into the Jamuna. An irrigation project which will irrigate the areas of Namati, Duardikharu and Duarbamuni *mauzas* is under construction. The river Diphu originates from the Southern side of Karbi Anglong and falls into the Jamuna. It is a very small river and is fed by a streamlet Dillaijan. The river Harina rises from the north-western side of Karbi Anglong and after passing through Denggaon area, it joins the Dikharu river and ultimately falls into the Jamuna river.

The Doiang : North of the Barail, the principal drainage channel is Doiang which rises near the Mahur station and flows a tortuous course through the centre of the North Cachar Hills district. Its approximate length upto Kopili river is 120 miles (about 193 kms.). From its junction with Langpher river near Lamsakhang it forms the northern boundary of the district till it falls into the Kopili which for the greater part of its course acts as the western boundary of the North Cachar Hills. The principal tributaries of Doiang on the left bank, are the Dalaima, Longloi, and the Langeon. On the right-bank it is joined by the Mahur with its tributaries the Mupa and the Langting. The river has a maximum discharge of 510.56 cusecs and minimum discharge of 0.24 cusecs at Mahur. During their passage to the plains, these rivers present the phenomenon usually to be observed in hill streams. Although the channel is full of rocks and boulders which in conjunction with the rapidity of the current render them useless for purpose of navigation, it offers a good scope for fishing by angling in clear water. The rivers roar their way towards the lower levels, and they add much to the charm of the surrounding scenery and carry off the rainfall water of the hills.

The Jatinga : The Jatinga river which rises from the south of Haflong is well known as the railway line runs along its valley. It flows west and south through the hills till it emerges on the plains at Panighat. From there it flows through the Barkhala Pargana, and after receiving the Doloo on its left bank, falls into the Barak nearly opposite

to Joynagar after a course of 36 miles (about 58 kms.). West of Jatinga there are numerous small streams which drain the country south of the Barail, but are of little importance except as drainage channels. The bed of Jatinga river is full of gravels. There is one discharge station at Harangajao established in 1959 and the maximum and minimum discharge recorded during the year were 1355.89 cusecs and 34.20 cusecs respectively.

The Jiri : The jiri is the most affluent tributary of the Barak, from the hills. It rises in the North-Cachar Hills and flows a course of 75 miles (about 120 kms). to its confluence with the Barak, during the greater part of which it forms the boundary line between Assam and Manipur. Its principal tributaries are the Jhiram and the Digli or Kumarunga which drains the hills immediately to the west.

The Chiri : The Chiri or Longkhao is another important tributary of the Barak. It rises from the North Cachar Hills and flows through a steep valley upto Sibsthan and then through plains of the Barak valley upto its confluence with Barak at Banskandi. It receives many tributaries on its way, important of which are the Labak, the Langlacherra on right bank and the Diksa and the Sital on the left bank. The river is a hill stream and carries good volume of silt during the flood. It is a meandering river and at a point near Nowagram ferryghat, it threatens to short circuit into the Barak.

The Madhura : The river rises from the North Cachar Hills and after flowing between 2 spurs of hills upto Udarband debouches into a wider valley in common with the Larsing river which drains the small adjoining valley to the west and flows in the common valley for a few kilometres to join the Madhura about one and a half kilometre upstream of its confluence with the Barak at a point opposite to the northeast corner of Silchar town in Cachar district.

The Langting : The river is a tributary of the Doiang and flows a course of approximately 94 miles (151 kms.) upto its confluence with Doiang. The bed is rocky and full of pebbles and boulders and at some places, of hardrock. The river is not navigable. The maximum discharge of the river is found to be 2,995 cusecs during floods and the minimum discharge 7.17 cusecs during the dry season.

The Mahur : It is an tributary of the Doiang and flows a course of approximately 34 miles (about 54.71 kms.) upto its confluence with the Doiang. The bed of the river is rocky and full of boulders.

The Lumding : It is also a hilly river and tributary of the Doiang. Its approximate length is about 68 kms.

Almost all the rivers in North Cachar Hills are hilly rivers with steep grade of bed and have tremendous velocities which make them unfit for navigation.

Floods : A number of rivers and streams though have their source of origin in the district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills, heavy flood is not the common occurrence because of the hilly terrain of the region. The rise in the water level of the Kopili, the Barapani and the Dhansiri causes flood in the plain areas of Karbi Anglong but their impact is more widely felt in the neighbouring district. Flood of the Barapani alone does not cause much harm to the areas lying along its banks. But back flow of the Kopili through its out fall which extend upto Lutumaikhuti, floods the entire area between foothills and affects the plain portion of Baithalangso *thana* upto the foot hills. The Dhansiri river causes flood in the Borpathar area of Karbi Anglong. Along the Kaliani river which is a tributary of the Dhansiri, there is some local flooding for the protection of which there is one embankment starting from Sildubi and ending at the out falls of Panjan.

However, the damage caused by the floods of these rivers is not very serious if the flood is timely, as the flood water does not last long and the people replant their fields after subsidence of the flood. If the flood is untimely and be of more than the normal height, the devastation is swift, complete and widespread especially when the crops are ripening. But this occurs only after the lapse of the years :—usually five or six years. Moreover, this is compensated for the fertility of the exhausted soil being restored by this natural process of manuring in a country where artificial manuring is not much practised.

(ii) **Lakes and Tanks :** In the Hawaipur area in Karbi Anglong a lake more than one and one half kms. length is situated at 25°56' and 92°49' latitude and longitude respectively. There are two tanks situated within a kilometre north of this lake. Another lake named Farma *bil* nearly two and half square kilometres is situated at 25°50' and 92°52' latitude and longitude. There are also a number of *bi's* and natural fisheries viz., Lankajan, Jora *bil*, Beedengpi Railway *bil*, Kachu *pukhuri*, Bet *pukhuri* etc., in Karbi Anglong. In the North Cachar Hills there are some natural and artificial lakes at the Haflong town which have augmented the beauty of this hilly town.

(iii) **Springs & Spring heads** : There are some hot-springs which have not been utilized properly. The hot spring namely Garmpani Hot Spring on the banks of the Kopili river in North Cachar Hills is well-known. It is situated near Garmpani Inspection Bungalow (25°31' and 92°8'). This spring emerges at the fault contact between Sylhet lime stones and Cherra sand stones. Temperature of water is 122°F. Numerous hot springs are also known to occur on a line in the upper reaches of the Kaliani river in the heart of Karbi Anglong. As it is known, most of these hot springs are regarded efficacious in the treatment of skin complaints, goitre, arthrities and other diseases, some of them can be converted into holiday and health resorts.

(iv) **Under ground water resources** : Hydrogeology of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district has been studied only in the area bounded by latitudes 25°23' and 25°36' North and longitude 92°34' and 92°46' East in connection with the geotechnical investigation of the Kopili Hydel Project. The area includes the Umrong basin and parts of the Kopili and the Doiang basins and is floored with marine Tertiary sediments lying unconformably on a granitite and gneissic basement. The oldest sedimentary unit is the 60 metre thick Cherra sandstone which is conformably overlain by the nummulitic limestone of the Sylhet stage (100 metre thick). The Sylhet limestone is overlain by the shales of Kopili stage (over 250 metre thick).

The Sylhet limestone which occurs extensively in the Kopili, the Umrong and the Doiang basins, has been subjected to solution activity by percolating water through geological ages. This has resulted in the formation of extensive sub-terranean caverns of very large dimensions. Subsoil water in the area occurs mainly in these caverns and also in the joints, cracks and fissures of the Sylhet limestone. There is evidence in the caverns that they act as channels of transpiration for surface run-off during the monsoon.

The piezometric surface of water occurring in the solution channels and other structural openings indicate a very flat hydraulic gradient (1 in 265) in Umrong basin but shows a steep slope towards south-east (hydraulic gradient 1 in 15) near the eastern periphery of the Umrong basin. The phenomenon is suggestive of heavy percolation of ground water from Umrong to Doiang basin. At places where there are clay partings in the limestone, groundwater occurs under artesian condition. The depth to water level varies widely, from less than a metre to few hundred metres depending upon the depth of occurrence of the Sylhet

limestone horizon. The storage potential of groundwater in the area can be noted as good and can be developed for domestic irrigational and industrial purposes by shallow and deep tubewells.

(d) **GEOLOGY** :

(i) **Geological antiquity and geological formation of the district** : The United Mikir & North Cachar Hills district which occurs to the south of the Brahmaputra alluvial valley, is constituted geologically by an inlier of complex older Archaean gneissic and granites forming the Karbi Anglong proper and a sequence of gneissic and schistose formations in the northeast fringes of the Shillong Plateau constituting the northern portion of the North Cachar Hills. These are in some places overlain by patches of doubtful Mesozoic traps. In the southern and south-western parts of the district, the Archaean rocks are flanked by nearly horizontally bedded much younger Tertiary rocks having a general N.-SW strike trend. They occur more or less in regular fashion all along the southern and eastern boundary of the Archaean gneissic complex. Immediately fringing the Archaean complex in a semi-circular fashion occurs the oldest Tertiary rocks of the area, namely the Jaintia series showing well-displayed stages. These rocks extend from south-east of Shillong plateau, i.e., Kopili valley, to as far as the upper end of the Dhansiri valley where it merges with the Brahmaputra. The Jaintia series is bordered in the south-east and east by the Borail series which is in turn fringed by the Surma Series towards further south and south-east. The next two younger series, namely the Tipams and Dihings, do not form regular and continuous bands like the older Tertiaries mentioned above, but they occupy considerable area along the foot hills of the Barail range and Jamuna and Dhansiri valleys of the district. The general geological succession of rocks in the district is shown below.

Formations	Age
Alluvium	Recent
Dihing Series Unconformity.	Pliocene to Pleistocene
Tipam Series Unconformity	Miocene

Formations	Age
Surma Series Unconformity	Miocene to upper oligocene
Barail Series Unconformity	Oligocene
Jaintia Series Unconformity	Eocene
Sylhet Trap Unconformity	Jurassic
Granite Shillong Series	Precambrian
Older Metamorphics and Gneissic complex	Archaean

Archaean Gneissic Complex: The Archaean gneissic complex is the oldest group of rocks which occurs in the district. They mainly occupy the Karbi Anglong proper, as already mentioned, but are also found to occur in the eastern and south-eastern portion of the Shillong Plateau falling within the north-western fringes of the North Cachar Hills. The gneissic inlier of Karbi Anglong is composed of rocks with a great variety of texture ranging from a coarse-grained porphyritic slightly foliated granite, to a fine-grained strongly banded gneiss. Although there is very little variation in composition, the colour frequently changes from grey to pink and it is quite possible that the older gneissic and younger granites of the Shillong Plateau are both represented in Karbi Anglong proper. The general strike of foliation of the gneissic is E.W. but there are frequent changes in direction; the dip is either vertical or steep.

The gneiss, which is usually fresh and uncrushed, consists of quartz, plagioclase felspar, rarely orthoclase, brown biotite mica, green hornblende and grains of magnetite, apatite, zircon and occasionally rutile. Occasional veins of quartz and pegmatite, the latter carrying mica and beryl, are seen in the gneisses locally. Sometimes there are bands of quartzitic schists, becoming in places garnetiferous and micaceous. At Miji, a hypersthene-bearing gneiss is observed intimately interbedded along the foliation planes of the gneisses, the bands of the hypersthene-bearing rock measuring 7 to 9 metres in thickness. The rock is foliated, coarse-grained and fresh with little signs of crushing and is chiefly composed

of quartz plagioclase felspar and hypersthene together with brown biotite and grains of magnetite, spine, apatite and zircon.

Shillong Series : The next higher group of rocks which lies with an unconformity over the Archaean gneissic complex is known as the Shillong Series. This is considered to be equivalent to the Precambrian Dharwar formations of the other parts of India. This does not occupy any major portion of this district, but nevertheless occurs around Nongirong, Khinduli, Umbas and Unishora area on the northeast fringe of the main Shillong plateau at the north-west corner of the district. It is also found as isolated patches near Melaber, Umkhyrmi, etc., south-east of the belt mentioned above.

This group of rocks is composed of a considerable thickness of well-bedded quartzites, locally conglomeratic and frequently micaceous, and highly crumpled and foliated micaschists, hornblende schists, chlorite schists, granulites and amphibolites with occasional bands of shale and slate. Micaceous schist is also a predominant rock of the Shillong series and this is in places intimately associated with the gneiss. The argillaceous stage includes some soft and shaly beds. The strike of this formation is generally NE-SW and the dips are moderate to the south-east. Sedimentary structures like current-bedding, cross-bedding, ripple marks, etc., are common in the quartzites.

Granites : The Archaean gneissic complex as well as the Shillong Series are intruded by granites, which are exposed over an area of many square kilometres in the Shillong plateau. This granite is known as Myllem granite. Though this granite does not occur extensively in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district, yet a considerable portion in the north-western corner of the district is occupied by this granite, especially around Pantalu, Umbi, Donmyrsing and Umpanai, Maji, Umkhen, Umtiryngai, Longpai, Pator, Pangcha, Rongshek, Baisko Rangpharsum area in North Cachar Hills. It consists of a structureless aggregate of large porphyrite crystals of flesh-coloured microcline felspar in a groundmass containing subordinate acid plagioclase and orthoclase, quartz and biotite, the last sometimes intergrown with hornblende, and grains of apatite and zircon as accessories. This rock is often seen intruding along the bedding of the quartzites and sometimes cut across the strike of the Shillong series.

Sylhet Trap : The Archaean complex is unconformably overlain in some places by basaltic lava flows and intrusive dolerites of

Jurassic age known as Sylhet Traps. Though doubts have been expressed about the existence of the traps in this area, Sylhet Trap does occur locally at a few places. The isolated patches of the rocks reported as traps around Myntliah ($25^{\circ}43'$); ($92^{\circ}16'$) a little north-west in North Cachar Hills may be only epidiorites of Sarterangso, and amphibolites similar to the Khasi greenstones in other parts of the Shillong plateau. There are also reported occurrences of altered trap, at Sarterangso, to the west of Dijam Basti, along the western flank of Longlai hill and along Disobai nala.

The Sylhet traps generally consist of basic flows, and dykes and sills of altered dolerite or basalt. Generally they are coarse-grained rocks composed of crystals of light green to colourless hornblends surrounded by large brown biotite mica, some plagioclase, a few quartz grains and a fibrous mineral which appears to be an altered hornblende. Though the general rock type of Sylhet trap is dolerite or basalt, yet fresh trap is very rare in this area, as it is invariably lateritised or decomposed. It also contains rounded modules of chert indicating original amygdaloidal character. From field occurrences, the trap appears to be post-granite but pre-Tertiary in age.

Jaintia Series : The Tertiary rocks which are well-developed in Assam, are divisible into (1) the lowermost Jaintia series (Eocene) and (2) Barail series (Oligocene); (3) Middle Surma series (Miocene to upper Oligocene); and (4) uppermost Tipam series (Miocene) and (5) Dihing series (Pliocene to Pleistocene). The Eocene rocks which are restricted to lower Assam are known as the Jaintia series. These rocks unconformably overlies the Archaean gneisses, Shillong series, Sylhet traps and Cretaceous rocks at different places. This series is also found well developed in United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district fringing the Archaean gneissic complex on the southern and south-eastern side in a semi-circular pattern. The Jaintia series has been divided into three stages, namely the lower Therria sandstone stage, the middle Sylhet limestone stage and the upper Kopili shales stage.

The lowermost Therria stage is composed of grits, coarse sandstones, dirty white clays and shales together with thin seams of coal. Quartzitic and calcareous sandstones are also predominant. The rocks are very well developed along the Kopili valley on the western part of North Cachar Hills in the south-western portion of the district. It then continues to occur through Kopili and Jamuna valleys as occasional patches and bands as far as Borpathar. The stage is overlain by the Sylhet limestone stage,

the next higher group of rocks, consisting mainly of fossiliferous (nummulitic) limestone. The limestone rests on a gritty sandstone which has locally undergone metamorphism to form quartzites. This stage follows more or less the same attitude as that of Therria sandstone stage so far as its distribution is concerned, but is more widespread and thick. The main exposures are seen more or less continuously along the Kopili and Umrang valleys in North Cachar Hills. Disconnected patches of the limestone are seen in Jamuna valley mainly around Sarterangso, Meyong Disa, Silvatta, Pakiangso, Rangpigaon, and Koilajan. The beds then take a sharp northerly turn around the Archaean boundary and occur as isolated patches along the eastern flanks of Karbi Anglong as far as Garampani. The Sylhet limestone is overlain by the uppermost Kopili stage which mainly consists of mudstones, silts, shales and carbonaceous shales, with intercalations of sandstones. This stage is well developed as a continuous narrow belt along the eastern side of the Kopili valley in North Cachar Hills. The rocks then continue into the Jamuna valley as occasional patches and ultimately die out in the Dhansiri valley.

Barail Series : The Jaintia series is unconformably overlain by the Barail series which occupies a larger area north of the Haflong-Disang thrust. These formations fringe the Jaintia series to the north-west and occupy many hundred square kilometres of area mainly in the Saipung Reserve Forest, Khudirang (2552') and Kolobot (4321') hills, and Dalaima, Doiang and Langloi river basins. This wide belt then takes a northeasterly turn and covers a considerable area, extending from the Barail foothills into the Daojali Parbat Laikrang range, Langting-Mupa R. F., Langling-Lamu-Hatikhali-Masabdisa area, Lumding and Dhansiri R. F. After this, the series disappears towards the Dhansiri basin, but few isolated exposures are found in the Jamuna basin especially around Rangpigaon.

The Barail series is divided into three stages, namely Laisong, Jenam and Renji (from oldest to youngest). This series is represented by a thick succession of wellbedded, massive, ferruginous sandstones with interbedded grey buff and brown shales. The sandstones are usually coarse-grained varying in colour from red to reddish brown and yellow to yellowish brown. The Laisong or the lower Barails forms prominent scarps well exposed in the Barail range. They consist of hard, thin bedded flaggy sandstones and subordinate shales. The Jenam stage consists of sandstones alternating with shales and carbonaceous shales, whereas the youngest and uppermost Renji stage is composed of hard massive sandstones with massive shales. The Barails in all the areas are mainly

arenaceous, but the sandstones increase in coarseness in a north-easterly direction. There are no coal seams of importance as in Upper Assam, but they begin to appear east of the main Dhansiri valley. Thin seams of coal and carbonaceous shales are, however, seen around Bhaga in Kopili valley.

Surma Series : The Surma series overlies the Barails with an unconformity. The series is best developed south of the Barail series in the Surma valley from where it takes its name. They mainly occupy an east-west belt south of the Haflong-Disang thrust fault boundary. They are mainly exposed in North Cachar in three widely separated areas namely (1) Kerem-Maibong-Mupa tract, (2) Sarkiading Range, and (3) around Lumding. The formation is well developed in the Lumding valley and is also exposed in *nala* sections along Jamuna valley, Dilai *nala*, Bara Harihajan (Bar Sariahjan), Chota Harihajan (Saru Sariahjan), Boharjan and along Dhansiri river from Borpathar to Garampani. The Surmas in Jamuna valley directly overlie the Jaintia series with an unconformity. The rocks of the series are represented by wellbedded grey to buff coloured shales with bluish clays and soft micaceous sandstones. The series is divided into two stages. The lower Bhuban stage, which takes its name from the prominent scarp of the Bhuban range in North Cachar, mainly comprises sandstones, shales and some conglomerates. In Karbi Anglong, the unconformity below the Surmas is well seen and the rocks transgress over the Barails and Jaintias into the metamorphics. The Bhuban stage is overlain by the Upper *Bokabal* stage, which is not, however, well developed especially in Karbi Anglong proper. It is mainly composed of sandy shales, silts and sandstones. The rocks are generally horizontally bedded or gently undulating.

Tipam Series : The Tipam series lies over the Surmas with no marked unconformity. This series occupies a wide area on the north-western flanks of the Barail range in North Cachar Hills extending north-east along the Dhansiri valley from Diphu and Dimapur as far as Borpathar. This series contains ferruginous, coarse to medium-grained, ferspathic sandstones, and light to bluish green mottled sandy clays, the former weathering to a reddish brown friable sandstone. It also contains pebble-beds and pebbly-sandstones. The whole formation carries a considerable amount of ferruginous material. The occurrence of Silicified and carbonised fossil wood is a characteristic feature in the Tipams.

Dihing Series : The Dihing series rests on the Tipams with an unconformity and at places transgress over the older formations into the

gneisses. It occupies a large tract on the south-east, east and north-east side of the Karbi Anglong proper fringing the border of the Archaean gneissic complex. The formation thus covers the eastern portion of the Jamuna valley and the western side of Dhansiri river basin extending to the north as far as Garampani.

The series consists of an assemblage of pebble beds with subordinate sands and clays. The rocks are for the most part poorly consolidated and the pebbles have been derived from the Barails as well as the metamorphics. Some carbonised wood and badly preserved leaf impressions are also seen.

(ii) **Mineral Wealth :** Though the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district is a fairly extensive tract, the terrain is hilly and thickly forested. The area has not been mapped in detail and the economic value of its mineral resources are still not precisely known. Sporadic mineral occurrences which have been reported from time to time are described below. There are two groups of rocks, namely the Archaean gneissic complex and the Jaintia Series, which are important in containing the important minerals reported from the district. Coal, limestone and clays are the chief economic minerals from the rocks of the Jaintia series, while minor occurrences of mica, beryl, etc., are found in the Archaean gneisses. Systematic survey of the district and detailed exploration for limestones, coal, clays, mica and other minerals are underway to develop mineral based industries in the district.

Beryl : This mineral is the principal source of beryllium metal. It is also employed in the alloy industry and is used in nuclear reactor as moderators. The mineral has been reported recently from some of the pagmatite veins traversing the Archaean gneisses of Karbi Anglong proper. Although no large occurrence for working the mineral on commercial scale has yet been located, further investigation in the future will indicate the actual value of these occurrences.

Building Stones : The granites and granite gneisses occurring in the Archaean complex of Karbi Anglong can be usefully utilised for building material. The quartzites of the Shillong series, granites and gneisses and the epidiorites occurring in the northern portion of the North Cachar Hills may be useful for building stones and road metals. The Sylhet limestones in Kopili and Jamuna valleys may also yield useful material for building. Some of these fossiliferous limestone can be polished

and used as ornamental stones. Elsewhere in the district, only the hard sandstones of Jaintia and Barail series are available for building and road-making purposes.

Clay : Various types and grades of clays are found to occur in the district within the rocks of Jaintia series, Barail series and Dihing series. Good quality clays are known to occur at places, such as Kaliani, Kidinithipa, Disobai *nala*, etc., within the rocks of the Jaintia series. Though the details of the reserve and grades are not known, some of these clays, may be useful for ceramic ware. Lithomarge—a special variety of clay is also found in this district below the Sylhet limestone stage in some localities. The shales of the Kopili stage of Jaintia series are widespread and can be utilised in cement manufacture and for tiles and bricks. The thin-bedded clayey shales in Dihing series exposed at places to the Jamuna valley may also find use to cement manufacture and for tiles and bricks.

Coal : Small occurrences of coal have been reported from various places in the district. The coal seams are found in sandstones of the Jaintia series. The most important areas from which coal has been located and investigated are at Koilajan, Longlai, Kheroni, Silvatta, Disobai *nala* and Khunbaman range and other places along the Jamuna valley on the southern side of Karbi Anglong. Some coal is known to occur in the upper reaches of the Kaliani and Daigurung rivers inside Karbi Anglong. Thin seams of coal also occur near Garampani in Kopili valley. Unlike in upper Assam, the rocks of the Barail series are generally devoid of coal, but thin impersistent coal seams are found at places around Baga on the Garampani-Haflong road in North Cachar Hills.

Coal is a basic fuel for the development of any industry. In this respect, the district has some potentialities so far as its coal reserves are concerned. Two of the areas, Koilajan and Disobai in Karbi Anglong are leased out and the Koilajan colliery has produced coal intermittently during the past 30 years. The thickness of the coal seam is about 1.6 metres at Koilajan, about 0.6 metre at Longloi and Kheroni and 1.2 to 1.5 metres at Silvatta. In the Khunbaman range, two seams of coal have been recently located, each measuring 0.91 to 1.5 metres in thickness and extending over an area of about 10 Sq.kms. Detailed exploration to prove the extent reserves and grade of coal in different places is under way to open up and develop the field for supplying coal for the needs of the district. The anticipated reserves of coal in some of the important areas may be of the order of a few million tons.

Hot springs : There are some hot springs in this district which perhaps have not yet been properly utilised. The hot spring at Garampani on the banks of the Kopili river in North Cachar Hills is well known. Numerous hot springs are also known to occur on a line in the upper reaches of Kaliani river in the heart of Karbi Anglong. As it is known, most of these hot mineral springs are regarded efficacious in the treatment of skin complaints, goitre, arthrites and other diseases, some of these hot springs can be converted into holiday and health resorts.

Limestone : Good quality limestones have been reported from many places in the district from the rock of Sylhet limestone stage. The main occurrences are around Garampani in the Kopili valley in North Cachar Hills, and at Koilajan, Manjali, Silvatta, Mayong Disa, Longlai, and adjacent areas along the Jamuna valley on the southern side of Karbi Anglong proper. The limestone in most of these places is low in magnesia and suitable for cement manufacture. The zone varies from 7 to 200 metres in thickness at different places. The reserves of such limestones along the Kopili and Jamuna valleys are of the order of hundreds of million tons. Details exploration by drilling and sampling is now being carried out by the Geological Survey of India and the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Assam, for setting up cement factories at Garampani and Bokajan and for the Kopili hydro-electric project. The completion of these investigations will lead to the exploitation of the limestones for supplying to cement manufacture, and electricity for paper, chemical and allied industries.

Mica : Mica has also been reported to occur in some of the pegmatite veins in the Archaean gneisses of Karbi Anglong proper, as for example north of Mohengdijua, but none of these have yet been found to be of economic importance.

(iv) **Earthquakes :** Earthquakes, as a rule, mostly occur in regions of marked instability of the crust, such as mountain belt of geologically recent date. It is thought that earthquakes originate from deep zones where the accumulated stresses give rise to some movement, mainly by slip along fault planes. Assam is situated on a tectonically weak zone and earthquakes are common along the Brahmaputra valley and adjacent hill tracts. Karbi Anglong proper forms a part of the older Archaean "Shield" mass and is a relatively safer zone where earthquakes of big magnitude are unlikely to take place, and are not liable to cause severe damage. Some earthquakes have occurred in the past along the margins

of the Assam plateau which is known to be a "horst" uplift during the Miocene period. The great Assam earthquake of 1897 and the Dhuburi earthquake of 1930 also occurred in this region, but did not cause much damage as the major Seismometrical lines passed either to the north of this district or to the south of it, touching occasionally the boundary of the district.

North Cachar Hills Sub-division suffered considerable damage by the shock occurred on January 10th. 1869. This earthquake was felt in upper Assam and also in the adjoining areas in Burma, but Manipur and eastern end of the Surma valley suffered the most damage. The great earthquake of 12th June, 1897 was felt in North Cachar Hills but escaped with comparatively little injury. Only the residence of the Sub-divisional Officer and the Dak Bungalow of Haflong were rendered uninhabitable. Little damage was done to the unopened section of the railway in the North Cachar Hills, but the bridge between Badarpur and Silchar sustained severe injuries. Though severe earthquakes took place in Assam in the years 1930 and 1950 and considerable damages were done in Dhuburi and upper Assam respectively, this district was not disturbed although a slight tremor was felt all over the area.

(e) FLORA :

The forest of Karbi Anglong can be placed broadly under Northern Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests and Northern Tropical Semi-Evergreen as described by Champion in his *Forests Types of India*. The forests included under the type Northern Tropical Moist Deciduous falls into two categories, *Sal* Forests and the rest. But biotic factors like age-long shifting cultivation, unregulated felling and uncontrolled burning have given rise to a number of variations and for the purpose of convenient description forests may be classified into *Sal* Type, Dry Miscellaneous Type, Wet Miscellaneous Type, Savannah Type and Swamp Type.

(i) Northern Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests :

Sal Type : Most of forests covered by this type are hilly and fall under Champion's Khasi Hills *Sal*. The rest of the *Sal* areas lying on level ground with or without kurkarni mounds resemble Champion's 'Kamrup Alluvial *Sal*.' According to these two sub types, the *Sal* bearing reserve of Karbi Anglong may be grouped as Wet Hills *Sal* and Moist *Sal*. Under the former comes the Junthung Reserved Forest and under the latter, Sildhampur Reserved Forests, Chelabor Reserved Forests and Rongkhang Reserved Forests.

The *Sal* bearing reserves are now situated on the outer fringes of Karbi Anglong. The occurrence of *Sal* is confined to patches of various sizes, often wide apart, from a few sporadic trees or small group of trees to patches covering not more than a couple of hundred acres. Continuous patches are not available in these reserves. Though *Sal* is at present sporadic and patchy, there is every indication that in the remote past, it covered a much wider area in a fairly continuous stretches extending over the zone and the present detached patches of limited extent and scattered trees are but remains after repeated *Jhuming* and uncontrolled felling in the pre-reservation period and even later. But the presence of numerous small but well stocked *Sal* of regeneration over well drained open areas and in blanks particularly under the shelter afforded by the clump of *Kakoo* bamboos, unmistakably points to the fact that with protection, the reclamation of area back to *Sal* is yet possible.

In hill areas *Sal* rises up to the top of the ridges, but as the soil here is generally shallow and dry, the growth of *Sal* is poor and stunted. Due to the open nature of the forests with the presence of grass as under growth, the locality is subject to annual fires, which cause damage to standing trees and to the younger generation. Regeneration is usually observed in patches where condition of soil and light are favourable, and where solitary mature or over mature trees of large size but of poor quality occurred in an otherwise young to middle aged crop. The quality class varies from IV to low III and the density can be described only by the term 'open'. In well drained plains, chiefly along the foot hills, the *Sal* finds its optimum conditions to thrive along the Nowgong border and it is here that the *Sal* of the quality class III to low II are noticeable. The patches are well stocked in many places and on account of easy accessibility and repeated improvement felling in the past, the trees are healthy with good formation.

A few small patches of mal-formation *Sal*, crooked, knotty and stunted, exists in the kurkarni areas of Rongkhang and Sildhampur Reserved Forests. Due to extensive encroachment, the *Sal* in these areas is disappearing rapidly and the prospect of regeneration too is poor. A number of other species also occur mixed with *Sal* according to the local variations in the site. Species like *Karoi*, *Jamuk*, *Ajhar*, *Sam* etc. occupy the moist ure localities, while *Gamari*, *Sapa*, *Amari*, *Poma*, *Bhelu*, *Simul* etc. occupy the typical *Sal* areas. The middle storey in *Sal* contains species like *Kumbhir*, *Dudhkhuri*, *Kanchan*, *Gohora Kuhir*, *Sonaru*, *Bandardima*, *Kothdlua*, *Hatikerpa* etc. While clumps of *Kakoo* bamboo occur in the low

storey in certain localities. The under growth vary between shrubs grasses like thatch, *San* etc., and where the canopies are completely open an invasion by *Eutarium* (Germany) grass is the result.

Dry Miscellaneous type : This type is Characteristic of non-*sal* reserves but also occur in the drier patches of *Sal* reserve characterised by openness of the canopy and slopes and ridges. Most of the areas are subject to annual fires, and are obviously a serail type of vegetation which spring up after the areas received rest from repeated *jhuming*. In places the pioneer species have, with time, been succeeded by the species of mixed deciduous of which many are commercially valuable. A certain amount of overlapping occurs in places near the *Sal* zone as can be seen by occasional widely scattered *Sal* trees with good seeding regeneration. The occurrence of this type of miscellaneous forests in the *Sal* zone does not appear to be a consequence of natural evolution but is a most probable result of the disappearance of the existing *Sal* due to ruthless felling in course of *jhuming* and subsequent burning.

The canopy being open, the differentiation of stories is not well-defined in these types of forests. The species represented are more or less those generally associated with *Sal*. Mixed with less important species occur scattered, valuable species like *Gamari*, *Amari*, *Bhelu*, *Bogipoma*, *Gunsoroi*, *Sapa*, *Sam*, *Simul*, *Hiharu*, *Khokon* and *Poma*. Climbers are not prominent chiefly due to the area being subject to annual burning.

Wet Miscellaneous Type : This type of forest is characterised by the presence of evergreen and semi-evergreen species, and is found in the moisture pockets and the cooler wet valleys nearly of all the reserves. Fire is almost unknown in the area occupied by this type and the forests generally presents a three storied appearance. Climbers, important of which are *Acacias* (*Kuchoi lata*), *Bauhinias* (*Kanchan lata*), *Vitis* (*Pani lata*), *Meezoneurum* (*Baghasora*) and *Entada* (*Ghila lata*), etc., flourish here and it is in this type of forests that commercially valuable canes are available. Among the tree species *Outenga*, *Morhal*, *Ajhar*, *Hingori*, *Dalmugra* etc. are conspicuous. The upper storey which give place to some lofty deciduous species also is represented by *Bhelu*, *Sam*, *Hollock*, *Amari*, *Khokon*, *Karoi*, *Am*, *Jamuk*, *Poreng*, *Dewasali*, *Sillikha*, *Dhuna*, *Hatiplai*, *Mau-Sita* and the like. *Bonsom* once constituted a fair percentage in these type of forests in the Dhansiri, Disama, Longhit Patradisha Reserves but the species is now rare in the later two reserves while in the former it is also depleted. Species like *Ajhar*, *Momai*, *Leteku*, *Outenga*, *Hingori*, *Bor-*

koliori, *Dalmugra*, *Morhal*, *Thekera*, *Dimoru*, *Bandardima*, etc. are seen in the middle storey. *Nahor* is present in a small quantity in some of the reserves. Under growth is generally of miscellaneous nature and of a moist type. Regeneration of important species is rare or scanty but seedlings of *Nahor*, *Sam*, *Amari* are noticed in small numbers. In the reserves like Dhansiri and Daldali, profuse regeneration of *Badam* is noticed.

Riverian Type : This type of forest occupies localities with alluvial soil of more recent origin and is noticeable in the vicinity of principal rivers and streams of the district. The presence of the type is generally on the banks of the rivers Jamuna, Kopili, Dhansiri, Kaliani etc. The forest is of a mixed type and is composed of the species like *Karoi*, *Ajhar*, *Urium*, *Outenga*, *Morhal*, *Bhelkor*, *Jamuk*, *Seris* with *Simul* as an associate. Where the drainage is better species like *Sapa*, *Poma*, *Amari*, *Bhelu*, *Gunsoroi* etc. occur.

Savannah Type : This is generally of two types namely the dry savannah and the wet savannah. Dry savannah occur in open areas in dry miscellaneous forests and are characterised by *Imperata arundinacea* (*San grass*). *Pollinia Ciliata* (*San*), *Erianthus elephantinus* (*Ekara*), *Panicum assamicum*, *Anthistyrina gigantia*, *Saccharum narenga* (*Meghela*), and other grasses. The areas are subject to annual fires. Wet savannahs are more or less associated with lower levels and are found fringing the *bils* or depressions created by changes in river courses. These localities frequently go under water during the rains and are characterised by grasses like *Saccharum*, *Anthistyrina*, *Arundo*, *Phragmites* (*Nal*) etc.

Swamp Type : The type includes depressions and *bils* which are mostly abandoned river channels. Most of these areas are fit for wet cultivation as they are not capable of supporting tree forests though they are generally fringed by species of the wet miscellaneous type. *Alpinia* species (*Bogitora*) are generally associated with this type.

(ii) **Northern Tropical Semi-evergreen Riverian Forests :** Generally speaking, the top canopy of these forests is characterised by species which are deciduous for short period, with middle and lower canopies being mainly evergreen in character. Deciduous characteristics of the forests increases as one proceeds into the hilly regions of Daldali reserve. Most of these forests were presumably under cultivation until the beginning of the last century and at present represent a serail stage. According to the distribution in the tract the forests can be described as below :

Kurkarni Type : Occurs in the plains portion where the drainage condition is poor.

Alluvial Type : Occurs in the plains portion where the drainage conditions are better and extending to the lower slopes of the hills.

Hill type : Occurs in the upper slopes and tops and ridges of the hills.

Kurkarni type : This type is confined to the low lying parts of the Nambor reserve. The terrain is flat and inter-spersed by a series of mounds of varying heights and diameters formed from the casts of earth worms. The area generally remains waterlogged during the rains. The trees growing in these are mainly confined to the kurkarni mounds. The incidence of climbers is rather heavy and the trees are prevented from putting on their proper growth by the dense mass of climber that generally covered their crowns.

Ajhar, Amari, Bonsom, Sam and *Urium* are some of the more important among the species that grow to a limited extent in these forests and formed the top canopy. The middle storey is more or less monopolised by *Outenga* which occurs along with other species like *Bandardima, Borhom-thuri, Morha* etc. Regeneration of commercially important species is rather scarce and confined generally to the space around mother trees. The ground cover being rather heavy, such regeneration find difficulty in establishing itself. The more common among the climbers are *Acacias, Bauhinias, Combretums, Dalbergias, Delimasementose, Entada Scandens* and *Uncarias*. The timber value of the forests is poor but this more than make up for the valuable cane growth found in them. *Jati* and *Tita* are the two varieties of canes that command a good market and occur in these forests. Besides, these two varieties of canes, *Raidang, Lejai* and *Rangkoli* canes are also found.

Alluvial type : By far the best timber stands are found in this type of forests. This type occurs in all the reserves and occupies the better drained localities in the plain portions extending up the valleys and lower slopes of the hills, the quality getting poorer as we move away from the plains. The soil is rich and deep and of loam texture.

Among the several tree species occurring in this type, by far the most valuable, is *Bonsom*. This species prefers moist, well-drained soil

and is generally confined to areas that are not far from rivers and to valleys containing a good depth of soil. Other important timber trees typical of this type are *Amari, Ajhar, Bogipoma, Bhelu, Hollock, Khokan, Sam*, and *Sopa* with *Nahor* occurring to a limited extent in the Nambor West Block. None of these species have any tendency to form gregarious patches over large areas, and occur more or less mixed together. *Ajhar* and *Hollock* can stand a certain amount of water logging but *Bonsom* has a tendency to die if the flood water does not drain away quickly. Both *Ajhar* and *Hollock* are confined to areas within easy reach of streams whilst the other species mentioned above are distributed more or less over the whole area.

Three canopy layers can be clearly distinguished in these forests. *Bhelu* rises over the rest in the top canopy which contains species like *Amari, Bogipoma, Bonsom, Hollock, Sam* and *Sopa*. Prominent in the middle canopy which is essentially ever-green in character are *Koliory, Momai-leteku, Morhal, Outenga, Rali* etc. The last mentioned species is more or less gregarious wherever it occurs. The lower storey is composed of several shrubs-like species, such as, *Clerodendron (Dhopat tita), Mallotus (Rohini), Melastoma (Phutuka), Litsaea (Dighlati)* etc. with a ground cover consisting of herbs and several kinds of ferns. Among the palms, *Geregua Tamul* is found as an under growth in areas characteristic of good, deep soil and with a fairly heavy overhead canopy.

Regeneration of the important species is found only to a limited extent in these forests. Regeneration appears easily where the soil has been wounded near cart tracks, saw pits etc. Shade bearers like *Bonsom, Amari* etc. can stand separation for some time and struggle but, demanders like *Hollock* find it extremely difficult to get through the heavy under growth prevalent in these forests. The incidence of climbers varies inversely as the stocking,—a common sight being isolated trees in open areas being covered by a mass of climbers. Among the more common of the climbers are *Acacias, Bauhinias, Combretums, Entada, Hibiscus fragrans* etc.

Hill type : This type occurs in Daldali Reserve and some portions of the Nambor Reserve West Block and is characterised by a high degree of deciduousness. The soil is shallow and poor and the predominance of bamboos in these areas indicates that Jhuming was prevalent in the not very distant past. In portions of Nambor West, however, hill soil is comparatively better.

The composition of crop is essentially mixed in character. Many of the shrubs occurring in the other two types occur in this type also, none of them having a tendency to form any large gregarious patches. The crop carries a large proportion of tree species that are now considered commercially useful at present along with the coming up of the large number of plywood factories in Assam. Among the more common of the large trees that are found in this type may be mentioned, *Am*, *Bajaiow*, *Amari*, *Bhelu*, *Jia*, *Paroli*, *Poma* etc. In the Daldali Reserve, *Dalu* and *Jati* bamboos are found to occur to a large extent as a middle storey, whilst in the Nambor Reserve West Block the northern portions are covered with *Bajalo* bamboo whose incidence increases as we proceed westward. The later type of growth appears to inhabit the progress of regeneration of three species. Climbers are less profuse than in other two types, the more common among the climbers being *Acacias*, *Bauhinias*, *Combretums*, *Derris*, *Smilax* etc. Regeneration of the important timber species is rather scarce. Open areas are covered with either *Eupatorium* or a dense growth of coarse grass or *Michenia*, all producing conditions that are unfavourable for the establishment of regeneration-tree of the species.

Assam tropical Miscellaneous Evergreen Forests : In these forests the characteristic feature is that top canopy is predominated by the deciduous species whose leafless period is short. The middle and lower stories are more or less of evergreen nature. These forests represent a seral stage which would ultimately lead to evergreen type. The forests under this type are Kaliani, Karbi Anglong and Nambor North Reserved Forests. The most common tree in the top canopy is *Bhelu*. Among other species in the top canopy layers, those more frequently occurring are, *Amari*, *Sapa*, *Sam* etc. Occurring to a lesser extent are *Bogipoma*, *Gunsorai* and *Bonsum* etc. The undergrowth in these forests is comparatively less but climbers are found in profusion. Bamboos occur plentifully in Kaliani and Karbi Anglong Reserved Forests.

Botanically, the forests of North Cachar Hills, when flora is considered, falls under the Eastern Himalayan Botanical Division. Mainly the forest type is Northern Tropical Semi-evergreen Moist Deciduous. Sporadically Northern Tropical Semi-green forest type is also visible. Distinctly visible sub types are dry miscellaneous, wet miscellaneous, riverain, savannah (due to biotic influence) and swamp. Most of the tropical land flora starting from lower *Thallophyte* to higher *Angiosperms* flourishes in the district. The sporadically visible *Gymnosperm* is exotic to this district.

The North Cachar Hills can be divided into three forest belts i.e. Hills Forest, Diyung Valley Forests and Plateau Forests. The Hills Forests comprises Borail and its ranges. They consist of trees mostly wet—evergreen. The main forest species found in these forest belts are *Schima Wallichii* (*Makari sal*), *Mangifera sylvatica* (*Am*), *Castanopsis* (*Hingori*), *Stereospermum Chelonoides* (*Paroli*), *Sterculia villosa* (*Udal*), *Cedrela toona* (*Poma*), *Duabanga Sonneratioides* (*Khokan*), *Morus laevigata* (*Bola*), *Alstonia Scholaris*, *Ficus glomerata*, *Talumaphelo carpa*, *Bischofia Javanica* (*Urium*) *Terminalia myriocarpa* (*Hollock*), *Artocarpus chaplasha* (*Sam*), *Gmelina arborea* (*Gomari*), *Mansonia Dipikee* (*Badam*) etc.

The Diyung valley forests mainly comprise Diyung basin and are moist deciduous. Species found are *Salmaalial malibatica*, *Trewia nudiflora* (*Bhelkor*), *Bombax Insigni* (*Dumboil*), *Sterculia villosa* (*Udal*), *Vitex penduncularis* (*Ahoi*), *Albizzia procera* (*Koroi*), *Albizzia Lebbeck* (*Koka*), *Lagerstroemia parviflora* (*Sida*), *L. flos regina* (*Ajhar*), *Ammura wallichii* (*Amari*), *Garuga pinnata* (*Paniamora*), *Castanopsis* (*Hingori*) etc. There are various bamboo species occurring luxuriently in these forests belts among which *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii* (*kako*), *Melocanna bambusoides* (*Muli*), *Bambusa tulda* (*Jati*), *Bambusa pallida* (*Makal*), *Teinostachyum dulloo* (*Dalu*) are most commonly found.

The Plateau Forests mainly comprise of savannah and dry miscellaneous forests. The tree species found are *Gmelina arborea* (*Gomari*), *Albizzia procera* (*Koroi*), *A. tebbeek* (*Koka*), *Cedrela toona* (*Poma*), *Lagerstroemia parviflora* (*Sida*), *Lagerstroemia flos reginae* (*Ajhar*), *Sterculia villosa* (*Udal*), *Geruna pilita*, *Celtis austrials*. The bamboos found in the region are *Bambusa pallida* (*Makal*), *Dendrocalamus strictus* (*Malkatqabans*), *D. hamiltoni* (*kako*), *Pseudostachyum polymorphum* (*Bajal*).

The important grasses and reeds available in these three belts are mainly *Imperata arundinacea* (*Sungrass*), *Phragmites* (*karka*), *Saccharum spontaneum* (*Meghela*), *Imperata cylindrica*, etc. The grasses are not of much commercial value except for use in roofing. Reeds are used in walling. But these are good raw materials for the paper and pulp mill. The plateau forests are very good as grazing ground.

Forests of the district have been classified into the Reserved Forests and Unclassed State Forests. The Reserved Forests have been constituted under the Assam Forest Regulation 1891. In 1968-69 Karbi Anglong had a total of 2209.47 sq.km of Reserved Forests under the two Forest Divi-

sions of Karbi Anglong East and Karbi Anglong West. The North Cachar Hills had 644.73 sq.km. of Reserved Forests under the North Cachar Hills Forest Division. Unclassed State Forest is, however, simply Government waste land and does not necessarily possess any of the characteristics which are usually associated with the expression forest. It may be a sandy *char* or a huge expanse of low lying land covered with high grass and reeds and almost totally destitute of trees. It may be a small piece of arable land, which has been resigned by its former holder and has not yet been settled with any other person; or it may be what its name would naturally suggest,—actual tree forest. The following is the list of Reserved Forests under different Forest Divisions in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills :

Karbi Anglong West Division, Diphu.

Name of the Reserved Forest	Area in sq.km.
1. Dhansiri R.F.	770.38
2. Daldali „	123.32
3. Disama „	112.14
4. Kaki „	121.48
5. Rongkhong „	33.39
6. Jokota „	13.25
7. Amring „	56.94
Total	1230.90

Karbi Anglong East Division, Diphu.

1. Karbi Anlong R.F.	209.789
2. Kaliani „	209.789
3. Nambor North „	53.094
4. Nambor West „	166.325
5. Selabor „	33.540
6. Sildhampur „	15.750
7. Junthung „	32.655
8. Longhit „	90.650
9. Patradisa „	67.340
Total	878.572

North Cachar Hills Forest Division, Haflong

1. Langting R.F.	502.45
2. Kruming „	124.15
3. Borail „	18.13
Total	644.73

Broad effects of Govt. Forest Policy : Since 1891, the Assam Forest Regulation of that year has been enforced. Forests are classified, as per rules into four types : 1. Reserved, 2. Protected, 3. Village, 4. Unclassed State Forests. Reserved Forests have been constituted under provisions of the Act under which the following acts are mainly prohibited. (1) Trespassing, or permitting cattle to trespass, or allowing cattle to pasture; (2) causing any damage to forest reserves by unauthorised extraction of timber, (3) clearing of forest land without permission (4) setting, kindling, or leaving any fire in the forest, (5) felling, cutting, girdling, marking, lopping, tapping or causing injuries by fire or otherwise to any tree, (6) quarrying of stones or removal of forest produce, (7) unauthorised clearing or breaking up of land for any purpose and (8) poisoning water or hunting, shooting, fishing, setting of trap or snare in contravention to government rules. The first object of the management of forest is to conserve it for the maintenance of climatic balance and to provide protection from erosion. During the past twenty years or so many unclassified State Forests of the district have been completely deforested and settled for cultivation. In addition some areas of Reserved Forests have also been deforested and settled with landless people. The unplanned denudations have deprived most of these forests of the power to resist erosion of the swirling flood waters.

The avowed forest policy of the Government is to attain a more regular and superior type of forest than the existing ones. In this respect sufficient progress has been made during the course of past fifty years. On the basis of scientifically prepared working plan, superior species are naturally regenerated and plantation is carried on very systematically.

Endeavours have also been made to enunciate a planned forest policy for providing the saw mills and plywood factories and to meet the local requirement of timber, fire wood, bamboo and cane.

The first object of the Government is to maintain climatic balance by conserving thirty three per cent of forest area in the district in conformity with the universally accepted principle. Prevention of soil erosion, preservation of the capital value of forests, improvement of the growing stock by enforcing sound silvicultural methods, replenishment of

the stock by applying recent techniques of a natural regeneration of valuable species and planting of more valuable indigenous and exotic species in poorly stocked areas and grassy lands are other aims of the policy. The annual yield is to be removed in a planned way on silvicultural principles, so that the growing stock in Reserved Forest areas is not depleted and the annual yield is sustained. Attempts are also to be made to utilize the less valuable species in different industrial enterprises so that optimum benefit is derived by society from forests.

During the past twenty years or so, many unclassed State Forests have been deforested and settled for cultivation. This unscientific process has caused soil erosion and severe floods.

Afforestation of grassy land areas and poorly stocked forest areas have been taken up. This will benefit in providing raw materials to forest based industries like saw mills, hardboard and ply-wood factories.

(f) FAUNA OR ZOOLOGY :

The topography of Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hills ensures a varied fauna in the region. The Garampani area in North Cachar Hills is dense in animal population for the reason that the *jungle* around is traversed by a long and wide stream which quenches the thirst of most animals around. For another reason the dense grass around, reaches a height of at least 15 ft. providing a protective curtain for nearly all groups of animals including elephants and tigers. Khorangma area (3600 ft) higher in altitude than Garampani has a multitude of fauna of various kinds. The biological environment is rather different. There are vast areas of grass lands less than 5 ft. in height. The vegetation is dense only in crevices down below between one rock and another where there is usually a stream. The crevices are very common which abounds with animals like deers, monkeys, *jungle* fowls, pheasants and small birds of several kinds. Bagha (2500 ft) 16 km. from Khorangma has a very dense vegetation around including large areas of bamboo growths.

The famous **Kaziranga wild life sanctuary**, the abode of the one horned rhinoceros is contiguous to the Karbi Anglong boundary to the north and ends at Garampani within the Nambor Reserve. Though the largest number of rhinoceroses live in the sanctuary and near about the area in Karbi Anglong, yet they are becoming very scarce. They breed slowly and the horn is worth more than its weight in silver and the flesh is prized as food and so they present a tempting mark to the hunter. Herds of wild buffaloes and wild bulls are also found in Karbi Anglong. Bisons are generally found near the hills and in the neighbourhood of tree forests.

Tigers, leopards and bears are met within almost every part of the district.

Elephants are fairly common especially near the hills and when the crops are ripening they do much damage. Reports of wild stray elephants, particularly solitary *Dantals* and *Makhana Gundas* attacking passers by or killing villagers and damaging crops by herds are not rare. Wild elephants are captured by *Mahaldars* under both *Mela Sikar* and *Kheda Sikar* under the supervision of the Forest Department.

For this purpose the district is divided into *Mahals* or Tracts. The right to hunt in each *mahal* is sold by auction and the lessee is required to pay royalty on every animal captured. In this district *Mela Sikar* method is usually employed. *Mahouts* mounted on the staunch and well trained elephants pursue the herd which generally takes to flight. The chase is of the most arduous and exciting character. The great animals go crashing through the thickest *jungles* over rough treacherous ground at a surprising pace and the hunter is liable to be torn by the beautiful but thorny cane brakes, or were he not very agile, to be swept away from his seat by the boughs of an overhanging tree. After a time the younger animals begin to flag and lag behind and it is then that the opportunity of the persuer comes. Two hunters single out a likely beast, drive their elephants on either side and the *fandi* deftly throws a noose over its neck. The two ends of the noose are, firmly fastened to the *kunkis* as the hunting elephants are called, and as they close in on either side, the captured animal is unable to escape or to do much injury to his captors who are generally considerably larger than their victim. The wild elephant is then brought back to camp where it is tied up for a time and gradually tamed. From 80 to 100 *kunkis* are generally employed in the *kheda*. A number of elephants caught in this way brings revenue in the form of royalty to the State as well to the District Council. Tigers (*Dhekiapatia*), Leopard (*Nahor Phutuki*), Wolf (*Kukurnesia*), Bear (*Bhaluk*) are also found in great number, they also cause panic among the people. Deers of various species such as swamp deer (*Bhelengi*), spotted deer (*Phutokiasor*), barking deer, hog deer are also available, but they are getting rarer due to destruction caused by the *Sikaris* and opening of forests for settlement and *jhuming* by the tribal people. Hares and Porcupines are also available.

Monitor Lizard (*Gui*) and Python (*Ajagar*) are also available. The eggs and flesh of *Gui* are taken with great relish and are considered to be very good for health. Poisonous serpents and vipers of various species are seen almost all over, though diminishing with the clearance of the *jungles*.

Birds like *Parghuma* (Imperial pigeon) and *Haltha* (Green pigeon) were available in abundance about a decade ago, but are getting rarer rapidly due to shooting by *Shikaris*. Dilagi and Amlakhi which are in the vicinity of Diphu the head-quarters of the district, are famous for these birds where they come to enjoy the salt licks. Wild ducks are rare, they seldom visit in the winter season but do not stay longer. Another rare kind of peacock is found in the region covering Jirikynding in Karbi Anglong and at Garampani area of North Cachar Hills and a portion of Jowai connecting these two areas. The horn-bills of various species are also found but the king horn bills of the biggest species are fast going out of existence and are found only in the deep forests now. There is one peculiarity spoken about the birds in the area of Jatinga in North Cachar Hills that, if one burns fire in the *jungle* in any foggy winter, all kinds of birds come and dash to the fire.

Among insects of the area (particularly in N.C. Hills) grasshoppers (*Orthopterous*) are most common. These are followed by termites (*Isoptera*), dragon flies (*Odonata*), beetles (*Coleoptera*), butterflies and moths (*Lepidoptera*), ants, bees, wasps (*Hymenoptera*), cockroaches and mantids (*Dictyoptera*), and other groups of insects. Apart from these a few species of spiders (*Arachnida*) are also very common. Land snails (*Palmonata*) and fresh water bivalves (*Lamellibranch*) are also met with in the area.

Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills having mostly low ranges of hills, hardly fulfills conditions required for the development of fisheries. There are a few old tanks and *bils* which may be made suitable for the development of fisheries. In these natural lakes and *bil*, fishes of high altitude varieties may be developed. In the plain portion of Karbi Anglong varieties of fishes, common in the bordering plains districts, are also available.

There are no national park and sanctuary in the district except a portion taken near Hatikhuli T.E. for a corridor from Kaziranga sanctuary to the Karbi Anglong. The Rhinoceros and elephants are protected animals. Hornbill is also a protected bird.

Much of the fauna is still unexplored and the climatic biotic and soil conditions are such that the district is ideally suited for the growth of varied types of animal population.

(g) CLIMATE :

The climate of undivided district is characterised by coolness, generally high humidities nearly all the year round and abundant rainfall. The cold season from December to February is followed by the season of thunderstorms from March to May. The southwest monsoon season is from June to about the first week of October. October and November constitute the post monsoon season.

Temperature : There is a meteorological observatory in the district at Haflong. The data of this observatory are available only for a few years. The description that follows is based on the meagre data available from this observatory and the records of the observatories in the neighbouring districts. From about the middle of November, both day and night temperatures begin to decrease, the drop being more rapid in the case of night temperatures. January is the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 20.7° C (69.3°F) and the mean daily minimum temperature at 10.7° C (50.5°F) at Haflong. On individual days in the cold season, the minimum temperature may go down to 5° or 6° C (41.0° or 42.8°F) at Haflong. From about the beginning of March temperatures begin to rise. The weather is pleasant, the days of March temperatures seldom becoming oppressive while the nights are cool in the period from March to May. The onset of the southwest monsoon early in June does not appreciably lower the days temperatures as in other parts of India, while the night temperatures are even higher in the monsoon season than in the rest of the year. With the withdrawal of the monsoon by about the first week of October both the day and night temperatures begin to decrease and the weather becomes cooler.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Haflong was 34.7°C (94.5°F) on 1960 May 1 and the lowest minimum temperature was 5.4°C (41.7°F) on 1959 February 1.

Humidity : The air is highly humid throughout the year, being particularly so during the southwest monsoon season when the relative humidities are above 80 per cent. The period from February to April is comparatively drier with the relative humidities in the afternoons between 50 and 60 per cent.

Cloudiness : Skies are heavily clouded to overcast in the southwest monsoon season. Moderately heavily clouded skies are common during the period March to May. In the post monsoon and the cold seasons the skies are lightly to moderately clouded.

Winds : Winds are light to moderate. They generally blow from directions between the north and the east except during the southwest monsoon when they are mostly from the south or southwest.

Special Weather Phenomena : Cyclonic storms and depressions from the Bay of Bengal seldom reach the district. Thunderstorms are frequent during the period from March to September. The thunderstorms from March to May are sometimes accompanied with squalls.

During the cold season western disturbances which pass easternwards across upper Assam or further north cause cloudy weather. Fog occurs frequently in the post monsoon and cold seasons.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 give the temperature and humidity and special weather phenomena respectively for Haflong.

Table—1.
Normals and extremes

	No. of years of data	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
Haflong (N.C. Hills)	50 a	19.6	37.3	107.7	249.7	350.8	461.8	306.6
	b	1.2	3.2	7.1	12.8	14.5	19.0	18.8
Jatinga valley (N. C. Hills)	48 a	25.9	55.1	209.8	474.5	590.3	891.3	805.2
	b	1.7	3.7	8.4	15.9	17.6	23.3	24.1
Harangajao (N. C. Hills)	30 a	20.1	44.7	175.8	451.4	587.0	856.0	543.3
	b	1.4	3.1	7.1	14.2	16.8	22.3	23.4
Maibong (N.C. Hills)	35 a	9.4	27.7	55.1	106.9	212.9	338.8	186.7
	b	0.7	2.4	4.1	7.2	10.9	15.2	12.3
Diphu (Karbi Anglong)	14 a	20.8	35.6	69.1	243.6	255.5	360.4	312.4
	b	2.1	3.5	6.2	14.6	14.7	16.7	16.9

(a) Normal rainfall in mm.
(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of Years given in brackets).

Rainfall.

Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	highest annual rain- fall as % of normal & years	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal & year	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours amount. Date
264.2	237.0	172.5	62.0	8.6	2277.8	144	76	256.8 1915, June'7
17.7	13.2	7.6	2.4	0.7	118.2	(1915)	(1917)	
778.3	591.6	280.9	56.4	8.1	4767.4	129 (1938)	72 (1914)	399.5 1915, July'10
23.9	18.0	9.0	2.3	0.6	148.5			
467.4	357.9	216.4	56.4	10.2	3786.6	128 (1934)	75 (1926)	287.0 1949, June'27
21.3	15.1	7.9	1.9	0.5	135.0			
163.8	163.8	134.9	50.3	4.1	1454.4	136 (1946)	66 (1931)	178.8 1946, June'17
11.4	10.4	6.9	2.5	0.4	84.4			
342.1	287.3	136.7	33.8	8.4	2105.7	127 (1911)	74 (1909)	313.7 1911, June'13
17.3	14.5	7.2	2.0	1.1	116.8			

(2.5 mm or more). Based on all available data up to 1957.

Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity (HAFLONG)

Month	Mean Daily Maxi- mum Tempe- rature	Mean Daily Mini- mum Tempe- rature	Highest Maxi- mum ever recorded	Lowest Minimum ever recorded	Relative Humidity 0830 1730*
	°C	°C	°C	Date	Date
January	20.7	10.3	24.6,	1958 Jan .29	7.1 1959, Jan.25
February	22.5	11.9	28.5,	1960 Feb .21	5.4 1959, Feb. 1
March	26.5	16.0	33.3,	1958 Mar.30	10.6 1959, Mar. 6
April	28.6	17.9	34.4,	1960 Apr .17	10.4 1960, Apr. 4
May	27.6	19.7	34.7,	1960 May .1	14.9 1958, May.10
June	27.7	21.1	32.2,	1955 Jun .26	17.6 1960, Jun.15
July	27.7	21.3	32.1,	1959 Jul .15	18.9 1956, Jul. 25
August	28.2	21.4	33.2,	1957 Aug.22	19.8 1958, Aug.10
September	28.3	21.1	32.2,	1959 Sep .1	17.9 1959, Sep. 9
October	27.0	19.2	32.7,	1960 Oct .9	13.2 1957, Oct.31
November	24.1	14.9	27.1,	1958 Nov .1	12.6 1960, Nov.27
December	21.7	11.7	25.6,	1958 Dec .6	8.0 1958, Dec.31
Annual	25.9	17.2			
*Hours I.S.T.					78 72

TABLE—3

Special Weather Phenomena (HAFLONG)

Mean No. of days with	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann.
Thunder	0.2	1.3	4.5	10.0	12.3	3.7	5.3	5.2	7.7	3.2	0.0	0.0	53.1
Hail	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dust-Storm	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Squall	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Fog	4.0	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.8	3.2	2.2	5.7	18.3

CHAPTER-II

HISTORY

(a) EARLY HISTORY :

Both records and remains testify that the people now inhabiting the geographical and administrative units of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district had a long history of their own. The Neolithic and Megalithic finds and monuments support the view that both the Karbis and the Hill Kacharis, who were the authors of some of these antiquities settled in and around the present district.

1. **The Karbis** : The Karbis, apparently of Bodo origin, live in the hills between Sibsagar district and Naga Hills.¹ They also called themselves *Arleng* which means man. Though the plains people called them *Mikirs* it is difficult to trace the origin of the word Mikir. It may have originated from *Mi-kiri*, meaning hill tribe. In origin they have a mixture of both Austric and Bodo blood. So far as this tribe is concerned we do not have enough historical materials to show that they had ever built a political dynasty just like the Ahoms, the Kacharis and the Jaintias, and it seems quite probable that they changed hands of their masters at different periods of Assam's history.

(b) EARLY MEDIEVAL AND MEDIVAL PERIOD. :

(i) **Karbi-Ahom-Kachari relation** : Colonel Dalton describes that Karbis were originally settled in North Cachar Hills.² Being oppressed by the Kacharis, they migrated westward to the Jaintia territory and meeting the same fate there, some of them migrated to Dimarua, Beltola and Rani in the district of Kamrup and the rest settled in the hills named after them.³ An embassy was sent to the Ahom Governor at Raha with a view to placing themselves under the protection of the Ahom King. But, as the ill-luck would have it, the delegates were unable to explain themselves and they were buried alive in the tank which the governor was excavating at that time. Hostilities ensued but they

1. Census of India 1961, Assam, United Mikir & North Cachar Hills, p.11.

2. B. C. Allen: Assam District Gazetteer, Vol. VII Sibsagar, Allahabad, 1906, p.84.

3. Major John Butler : Travels and Adventures in the Province of Assam, p.127.

were soon brought under the subjugation of the Ahoms. This incident seems to have occurred during the reign of the Ahom king Rajeswar Sinha.⁴ In July 1765 he undertook operation against the hostile Karbis by despatching two forces, one entering Chapanal and another through the Kopili and the Jamuna river. The two forces defeated the Karbis and burnt their houses and granaries. The Karbis agreed to pay tributes and begged forgiveness. The Ahom king appointed a Principal Chief over the whole clan and collected tribute from them in kind valued at about Rs.338 per annum.⁵

The articles consisted of the following :

(1)	300 bundles of cotton	—	Rs. 300
(2)	300 bamboo mats	—	Rs. 10
(3)	300 bundles of <i>naluka</i> , the bark of a tree used as a perfume.	—	Rs. 16
(4)	300 <i>Sancipat</i> , (the bark of a tree used formerly as paper to write on.)	—	Rs. 12
Total			Rs. 338

Though the Karbis had placed themselves under the protection of the Ahom kings and paid regular tributes to them, yet they were required to pay the revenue to the neighbouring Kingdoms of Cachar and Jaintias. No regular revenue was paid to them and "whatever was exacted in kind or corn was more in the shape of black mail..... and the aggregate amount realised by both states may be estimated at about half the sum paid to the Rajah of Assam, or the annual sum levied by the states from the whole tribute did not, probably, exceed in values 500 rupees".⁶

The above version of migration and skirmishes with the Kacharis and the Jaintias is also supported by the legend of the tribe, according to which their first settlement in the area was at Sochang, which was a Khasi village (in west Rong-khang Mouza and still said to contain some ruins of the settlement). Mukaitro Rongpi was the first man to

settle there. Later on Ronghang Lindok, Chief of the Karbis drove away Mukaitro Rongpi and made Socheng a capital. It is said that Rong-hang Lindok was a man with divine power who could make friendship even with wild animals. The tradition current amongst the people also gives various accounts of their fights with the Kacharis (*Parok* in Karbi dialect) and Jaintias at different times. Their legerdary hero, Thong-Nokbe fought with the Kacharis at Ghilani (near Borthal) and Kirkim (near Umteli village, both the villages are within the Karbi Anglong). He also fought with the Jaintias. Some of these legends are found confirmed by the Assamese chronicles.

(c) MODERN PERIOD :

(ii) **Karbi-British relation** : With the downfall of their masters the Ahoms, the Karbis also came under the subjugation of the British. In the year of 1837-1838 the system of taking tribute in kind was abolished and the first revenue settlement was effected with them by levying tax at a certain rate.

The Mikir Hills Tract in the district of Nowgong was originally constituted by a notification under the *Assam Frontier Tract Regulation* (11 of 1880) in the year 1884. In 1898 a part of this was transferred to Sibsagar while part of the Naga Hills district was transferred partly to Nowgong and partly to Sibsagar.⁷

The amended boundaries of the Nowgong and Sibsagar Mikir Hills Tracts were notified in 1907. A slight modification was made in 1913-14, when the area around Dimapur was retransferred to the Naga Hills. The Mikir Hills Sub-division was later constituted, except the Bhoi area of Jowai Sub-division of United Khasi & Jaintia Hills which was within the district of Sibsagar and Nowgong. Till 1951, therefore, this Sub-division as a geographical and political unit did not exist.

2. KACHARIS : ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY

The Kacharis are said to have been "the aborigines, or the earliest known inhabitants, of the Brahmaputra Valley."⁸ The origin of the word Kachari is still shrouded in mystery. They call themselves

4. E. A. Gait : *History of Assam*, p.187.

5. Major John Butler : *Travels and Adventures in the Province of Assam*, p.127.

6. *Ibid*, p.128.

7. *Assam Land Revenue Manual* Vol.I, Eighth Edition, pp CLXvi—CLXvii.

8. E. A. Gait : *History of Assam*, p.247.

Bodo or *Bodo-Fisa* in the plains of Assam and *Dimasa* or *Dima-Fisa* (sons of the great river)., in the North Cachar Hills.

Unlike the Karbis the Kacharis in the past played a distinct historical role and exercised political domination over a large part of the Brahmaputra Valley which continued even after the Ahom began their rule in Assam. Duration and extent of their political domination and culture may be well testified from the name of the places particularly of rivers preceded by *di* or *ti* the *Bodo* word for water. The rivers like Dibru, Dikhow, Dihang, Dibong, Disang, Dimala etc., may be derived from the *Bodo* word.

According to Fisher there is a belief among the Kacharis of the North Cachar Hills that they once ruled over Kamrup and the royal family is said to have its descent from the *Raja* of that country, of the line of Ha-tsung-tsa. From there they moved to Halali and finally established their kingdom at Dimapur.⁹

(b) EARLY MEDIEVAL AND MEDIEVAL PERIOD :

Kachari-Ahom Relation : During the early part of the 13th century, when the Ahoms entered Assam "the Kachari Kingdom extended along the south bank of the Brahmaputra, from the Dikhou to the Kalang, or beyond, and included also the valley of the Dhansiri and the tract which now forms the North Cachar Sub-division."¹⁰ The Dikhou river formed the boundary between the two kingdoms of the Kacharis and the Ahoms for many years or till the first collision which took place in the year 1490 A.D. on the bank of above river. The Ahom forces sent by Suchangpha were defeated and he "offered a girl, two elephants and 12 slaves to the Kachari to induce them to make peace."¹¹

The scene of the battle is in itself significant, as it showed that the Kacharis could fight, and fight successfully at a considerable distance from their capital, and that they could make their influence felt not only in the Karbi Anglong and the forest of the Dhansiri but in the fertile

plains of Jorhat and Golaghat. But it was not for long that they were to enjoy the pleasant sense of victory. The Ahom power was rapidly growing and during the next 30 years inspite of these defeats they gradually thrust the Kachari boundary back to the Dhansiri Valley.

In 1524 Ahom's territory was again attacked by the Kacharis, but the same was repulsed and the Kachari king gave his sister to the Ahom king. Two years later, in 1526, war again broke out. The Ahom king Suhungmung marched up to the Dhansiri Valley and gave order for the construction of a fort at Marangi. He then proceeded to Maiham with his army. The Ahom forces were however attacked, Maiham was re-captured by the Kacharis. The Ahom forces again advanced and the Kacharis retreated after fighting bravely. They were persued by the Ahoms who succeeded in inflicting a defeat upon the former.

Again in 1531 the fort at Marangi was constructed by the Ahoms. This offended the Kachari king Khunkhara and he despatched his brother Detcha to throw them out. In the battle that ensued the Kacharis were defeated. Ahoms advanced further with a large army and halted at the junction of Doyang and Dhansiri rivers. In the night attack a place called Nika was taken. In advancing further the Ahoms divided their army into two; one ascending the left and the other right bank of the Dhansiri river. In another skirmish the Kacharis were again defeated. Being persued by the Ahom forces upto Dimapur, Kachari king fled with his son and a prince named Detsung was set up in his place, who gave his sister in marriage to the Ahom king with a number of presents including an elephant, five hundred swords and cloths, 1,000 napkins, 100 *doolies* and Rs.1,000 in cash.

There was no lasting peace between the two neighbours. Hostilities again ensued in 1536 and the Ahom forces again invaded the Kachari kingdom. The Ahom forces were led by the king himself upto Marangi. The Kachari king Detsung took shelter in a fort on Daimari Hills, and on arrival of the advancing Ahoms, he first went to Lengur Hills, and then to Dimapur. The Ahom forces did not relax their pursuit and march into Dimapur. The Kachari king again took to his heels, and leaving his mother and three princesses. The former was killed and the latter were sent to the Ahom capital. Detsung was also captured and put to death. His head was brought and buried on the Charaideo Hills. No further fight was attempted by the Kacharis. The Ahoms became masters not only of the Dhansiri Valley, but also of the whole of the Kachari possessions north of the river Kalang in Nowgong. The

9. B. C. Allen : *Assam District Gazetteers*, Vol.1, Cachar Calcutta, 1905, p.20. An account of origin of the Kachari and their kingdom may also be found in Sibsagar District Gazetteers, pp.34-36.

10. E. A. Gait : *History of Assam* p.248.

11. B. C. Allen : *Assam District Gazetteers*, Vol.1, Cachar, Calcutta, 1905, p.20.

Kacharis now left Dimapur and moved to Maibong on the bank of the Mahur river in the North Cachar Hills where they established themselves again in power. Dhansiri Valley soon relapsed into *jungles* with the departure of the Kacharis.

Since the abandonment of the Dimapur by the Kacharis and establishment of their kingdom at Maibong, no engagement between the Kacharis and the Ahom is found recorded till the beginning of the 17th century. During this period it is learnt that Kacharis continued to consolidate their kingdom and took possession of a large area in Nowgong district and North Cachar Hills and started a career of expansion even into the plains of Cachar.

Kacharis after establishing themselves at Maibong thought that they had passed beyond the sphere of Ahom influence as the latter would not be able to attack them through dense *jungles* and hills, but their hopes belied. Jasa Manik, a Jaintia king, with a view to taking revenge of his humiliation he suffered at the hands of the Kacharis, offered his daughter to the Ahom king Pratap Sinha with a condition that she should be taken through the Kachari territory. The Ahom king Pratap Sinha (Susengpha) sought for the consent of the same from the Kachari king, Satrudaman, but the latter not only refused the permission to escort the girl from his territory but raided Ahom's territory shortly thereafter. Enraged by the refusal and subsequent aggression, the Ahom king marched his forces up to the Kopili where a Kachari chief was defeated. The forces advanced further to Satgaon and another defeat was inflicted upon the Kacharis at Dharamtika. Kacharis then retreated to Maibong and left strong garrison in the fort at the junction of the Kopili and Mara-doiang rivers. Ahom's attack on the fort was repulsed; a message was sent to the Ahom king who advanced with fresh troops up to the Dhansiri Valley and captured the place of Demalei. Jaintia princess was brought safely from Jaintiapur to Raha and then to Ahom capital. Ahom forces withdrew leaving a strong part of their forces at Raha under the charge of a *Gohain* named Sundar.

On being demanded by the Ahom *Gohain* to pay tribute failing which Maibong will be attacked, the Kacharis under the command of Bhimdarpa, the brother of their king, launched a night attack on the Ahom fort. Sundar and many others were killed and the rest somehow escaped. Satrudaman celebrated this victory by assuming the name of Pratapnarayan and renaming his capital as Kirtipur. As the Ahom king was required to be engaged with the Muslims he wisely decided to make

peace with the Kacharis. The Kachari king was pacified but demanded an Ahom princess in marriage and accordingly a daughter of one of the chief nobles was given to him.

Satrudaman was succeeded by his son Narnarayan who died after a very short period. He was succeeded by his uncle Bhimpal or Bhimdarpa who also died in 1637 without any major event. His sons Indraballabh on his accession sent a friendly message along with some present to the Ahom king, but the tone of his communication offended the Ahom king. Birdarpanarayan after his succession in 1644 again communicated with the Ahoms, but he was informed that "the style of his letter was unbecoming on the part of a protected king."¹² The Kachari king objected to the use of word "protected" but on being offered an Ahom princess he was satisfied. However his relations with the Ahoms remained strained and in 1660 he was asked to send the usual envoys, otherwise his country would be attacked.

In 1663, Chakradhvaj Sinha, the Ahom king after his accession, sent envoys to the Kachari king and asked for the expulsion of the Marangi Khowa Gohain who fled to his territory during Mirjumala's invasions. The Kachari king refused to comply with the request and allowed the Ahom envoys to leave his kingdom. Later on when the Ahom king defeated the Muhammedans in 1667, Birdarpa sent envoys with messages, and friendly relations were restored.

Birdarpa was succeeded by his son Garuradhvaj in 1681. He sent messenger to the Ahom court demanding that the usual congratulatory be despatched by the Ahom king to his court. In reply to the Kachari king he was intimated to send first his envoys with messages in usual forms to the king and his chief nobles. This the Kachari king did not comply with and the relation between the two remained strained till his death in the year 1695. Garuradhvaj was followed by his two sons Makardhvaj and Udayaditya.

From the Ahom-Kachari relations during the last four decades of the 17th century described above, it may be gathered that the Kacharis gradually asserted their independence forgetting their past defeats at the hands of the Ahoms. During this period the Ahoms were also occupied with the successive Muhammedan aggressions and their own other troubles which left for them little time and power to deal with the Kacharis. The process of ascertaining independence by the Kacharis

12. E. A. Gait : *History of Assam*, p.254.

continued and at last during the reign of the Ahom king Rudra Sinha, Tamardhvaj, the Kachari king declared his independence. Ahoms, who had overcome their difficulties by this time, decided to bring them under submission. Two armies were despatched, one under the *Bar-Barua* who entered the Kachari territory through Dhansiri valley and other under the command of the *Paniphukan* who marched up to the Kopili valley via Raha. The march of the two batches of army and their encounter with the Kacharis, are found described in detail in the Assamese Chronicles. The *Bar-Barua* started from Sala in December 1706, entered the valley of the Dhansiri and reached Samaguri fort, 106 miles from Sala. The Nagas on the way to the fort gave trouble. Troops had to be sent against the Nagas, and a few of them were killed. Even then the forts near Samaguri were required to be strengthened for putting a stop to further raids by the Nagas. The Ahom forces continued their march and after many skirmishes they safely arrived at the Kachari capital Maibong. The Ahom forces sacked the capital and took with them a good deal of booty including a cannon and a large number of guns.

Nothing is known about the Kachari king for the next sixty years. An inscription on the rock-cut temple at Maibong, dated *Saka* 1633 (1721 A.D.), proves the existence of a king named Haris Chandra Narayan. According to another historical document the reigning monarch in 1736 was one Kirti Chandra Narayan. In 1765 Sandhikari was the Kachari king to whom messenger was sent by the Ahom king Rajeswar Sinha for demanding his appearance at his court. But Sandhikari did not receive the messenger. The Ahom king got offended and sent his *Bar-Barua* with an army to Raha. The Kachari king surrendered himself to the *Bar-Barua* and was taken before the Ahom king by whom he was admonished. In 1771 he was succeeded by Haris Chandra Narayan, who is credited in an inscription with the erection of a palace at Khaspur.

In the later part of the 18th century many Moamaris and other Ahom subjects took protection in the Kachari kingdom during the reign of Krishna Chandra. The Ahom king Kamaleswar demanded the expulsion of the above refugees. Refusal of the same led to the war between the two. The fight which began in 1803 continued till 1805 and the Kacharis along with their allies suffered a crushing defeat.

Kachari-Koch relation : Kacharis after establishing their kingdom at Maibong on the bank of the river Mahur had to face not only the Ahom invasions but also those led by the Koch rulers. According to Assamese Chronicles like the *Darrang Raj Vansavali* the

Kachari king was defeated about the middle of the 16th century by Chilarai, the brother and the general of the great Koch king Nara Narayan. The Kachari king in addition to giving a large number of elephants and other presents promised to pay an annual tribute of seventy thousand rupees, one thousand gold *Mohars* and sixty elephants.

Kachari-Jaintia relation : The first encounter between the two took place in the beginning of the 17th century, when the Jaintia king Dhan Manik captured Prabhakar, a chief of the Dimarua, whose family owed allegiance to the Kacharis. Satrudaman, the then Kachari king, demanded the release of Prabhakar. Failing to get the release of his chief, the Kachari king sent his forces to the Jaintia territory and defeated Dhan Manik, who there upon submitted and agreed to pay tribute and also offered two princesses to the Kachari king. As a hostage, he also gave his nephew and the heir-apparent, Jasa Manik, who was kept as a captive at Bikrampur later on renamed as Khaspur. The Kachari king celebrated this victory by assuming the title *Arimardan alias Satrudaman*.

After the death of Dhan Manik who died soon, his nephew was released and installed as a king of Jaintia on a condition to recognise the Kachari king as his over lord. Jasa Manik resented this, but, unable to fight with the Kacharis, he with a view to bringing the Kacharis into arm conflict with the Ahoms, made an offer of a princess to the latter with a stipulation that she had to be escorted by a route passing through the Kachari territory. The Ahom king sought the permission of the Kacharis to escort the princess through the above said route. On being refused, the route was cleared by force and the princess was escorted to the Ahom territory.

After this no incident is recorded between the two kingdoms, and nothing is known about the nature of relation till the beginning of the 18th century when after the sack of Maibong by the Ahoms, the Kachari king Tamaradvaj fled southward to Bikrampur in the plains of Cachar and sent an appeal for immediate help to Ramsingh, the *Raja* of Jaintia. Accordingly, Ramsingh made preparation and collected his troops, but before his march he was intimated by the Kachari king of the withdrawal of his earlier request for help, as the Ahom forces had withdrawn due to sickness at Maibong. Ramsingh, intending to take advantage of the distress of the Kachari king proceeded with this object and brought Tamaradvaj under his power and took him to Jaintiapur. The Kachari king, however, sent messages to the Ahoms for help, which was not

refused. A strong force was sent by the Ahoms who captured both the princes and brought them to their kingdom.

(c) **MODERN PERIOD :**

Kacharis' relation with the British : Our knowledge regarding the history of Cachar during the 18th century is very meagre. The section of Kachari tribe who moved into the Surma Valley or remained in the hills of North Cachar was very small and in 1901 there were only 8,708 Kacharis in the hills and 4,152 in the plains of the district. They moved across the border from Sylhet and refugees poured into the district from Manipur; but even in 1835 the total population of the Cachar plains was only estimated at 50,000 souls. The Kachari *Raja* seems in fact to have sunk to the position of the petty ruler of an unimportant tribe living in the remote *jungle* tract. The first connection of the British with the district dates from 1762, when Mr. Verelst marched from Chittagong with five companies on foot, to assist the Manipur *Raja* who had been driven from his throne by the Burmese. They reached Khaspur and remained there for nearly a year, but were prevented by difficulties of the country from going further, and they were finally recalled. The next historically important fact was the formal conversion of *Raja* Krishna Chandra to Hinduism in 1790 A.D. This king also came into hostile relations with the Ahoms chiefly because of the fact that during this period many Moamaris and Ahom subjects took shelter in his country, and the Kachari king refused to send them back to the Ahom kingdom, as directed by the Ahom ruler Kamaleswar Sinha. The war lasted from 1803 to 1805 where the Ahoms defeated the combined forces of the Kacharis and the Moamaris.

When Krishna Chandra died in 1813 he was succeeded by his brother Gobinda Chandra. He was soon confronted with difficulties. Kohi Dan, a table servant of the late *Raja*, who was appointed as the incharge of the northern hilly tract, soon rebelled against Gobinda Chandra and wanted to form an independent kingdom. Gobinda Chandra managed to take him to Dharampur, where he was assassinated. The rebellion was continued by Kohi Dan's son Tularam, himself a servant of the *Raja*, who thinking that his own life was in danger fled to hills and successfully resisted all attempts to reduce him. Gobinda Chandra was deprived of the northern portion of his dominion. Soon after Gobinda Chandra came under the British protection. Though he made repeated attempt to expel, Tularam remained in the possession of the hills. The latter was now growing old, and in 1828, he entrusted the command

of his troops to his cousin Gobinda Ram, who after defeating Gobinda Chandra's levies, abused the confidence reposed upon him and turned his arms against his patron. Tularam fled to the Jaintia territory, but in July 1829, with the aid of Manipuri detachment lent by the prince Gambhir Singh, he ousted his ungrateful cousin, who in his turn fled to Dharampur and entered into an alliance with Gobinda Chandra. At this stage David Scott, the British officer on the spot, induced the Kachari *Raja* to recognise Tularam as a ruler of a considerable tract of country in the hills. In spite of this, he soon afterwards instigated three separate attacks on Mr. Scott, who caused the persons concerned to be apprehended and confined. In 1830, Gobinda Chandra died at the hands of a Manipuri assassin, leaving no heir of his own, and therefore his country was annexed by the British by a proclamation, dated 14th August, 1832.

Tularam laid a claim to the vacant throne on the plea that he was the descendent of the old *Raja*, but his claim was found groundless. He was, however, confirmed in his possession of the greater part of a tract which was bounded on the south by the Mahur river and Naga hills, on the west by the Doyang river, by the Dhansiri on the east and on the north by the Jamuna and Doiang. He agreed to pay a yearly tribute to the British who granted him a life pension of fifty Rupees a month. The title of *Raja* was not given to him and he was allowed to deal with only the criminal cases of trivial nature while offenses of a serious nature were to be tried by the officer in charge of Nowgong district.

In 1884, the Government of India sanctioned the application of Tularam accordingly, who died soon after-wards, to transfer the management of his estate to his two sons, Nakul Nath Barman and Brij Nath Barman. They were not quite fit for the task and were involved in internal quarrel. The Angami Nagas ravaged their territory. In one bloody raids eighty persons lost their valuable lives and many became prisoner and later on their slaves. At last, in 1854 the tract was resumed and added to North Cachar Sub-division, the headquarter of which was then at Asalu, and which since 1839, had been included in Nowgong district. When Naga Hills district was formed in 1866, this Sub-division ceased to exist and the territory included in it was distributed among the neighbouring districts. It was re-established in 1880 and placed in charge of a junior Police Officer who was at first stationed at Gunjong and later on at Haflong. Liberal pension was given to Tularam's family.

Sambhudan's rising in 1882 : In 1882, a curious outbreak occurred which resulted in the death of the district officer. The incident is described by W.W. Hunter, as quoted by Mr. B.C. Allen.¹³

Formation of North Cachar Hills Sub-division : In 1839, the portion of North Cachar, not included in Tularam's dominion, and the country inhabited by the Karbis formed part of the Nowgong district. In 1853 North Cachar was formed into a separate sub-division with its headquarter at Asalu, and in the following year Tularam's territory was added to it. In the same year four *mauzas*, comprising the estate known as "*Mahal Jamunamukh*" were transferred to this sub-division from the Nowgong district. The Sub-division was then administered by a Junior Assistant Commissioner, as defined in the Assam Code.

In 1867 the Sub-division of North Cachar was abolished. A portion of it including Asalu transferred to South Cachar, but the Naga Hills and a large part of the Karbi Anglong were constituted into a separate district. Nothing was done until 1880, when the North Cachar Hills were formed into a Sub-division of Cachar district with its headquarter at Khanjung (Gunjong) and placed in-charge of an Assistant Superintendent of Police. In 1884, the Frontier Tracts Regulation (11 of 1880) was extended to North Cachar Hills and in 1895, head-quarter of this Subdivision was transferred to Haflong.

Kachari Administration : Neither their own records nor the Assamese Chronicles throw much light on the Kachari system of administration. From their exchange of envoys with the Ahom court and diplomatic correspondences we have a side-light on their political relations with the neighbouring kingdom of the time.

When the British occupied the area in 1830, they found that the administration was not uniform. The Kachari king was assisted by a gradation of officers, notable among whom were the *Bar Bhandari* in-charge of law and justice, the *Senapati* or the Commander-in-Chief of the army, and the *Purohita* who was required to perform sacrifices for the safety of the king and his subjects. The people who were under their direct control consisted of the Kacharis, Kukis, Nagas and other hill tribes.

So far as the Bengali inhabitants were concerned, they were almost free from the ordinary laws of the Kachari administration.

The system of land tenure and revenue administration was but peculiar in so far as it pertained to the said Bengali settlers. According to this, land was held by a number of persons, called a *Khel*, which was but the unit of an agricultural community. Its members were not connected by any caste or creed. This principle of voluntary association was in course of time extended to commercial enterprise as well. Whatever the nature of associations for common partnership, whether in respect of land or any commercial undertaking, the individuals had their common obligations to the royal power. These consisted of the payment of revenue and the supply of labour to the king. Revenue was collected by the king's agent called *Mukhtiar*.

In course of time a number of *Khels* joined together to form what is called a *raj*. The representatives of these large unions were called *Choudhury*, *Mauzadar*, *Laskar*, *Bara-Bhuyan*, etc., according to their social status. These titles were hereditary. Each *Khel-Mukhtiar* paid land revenue of each *Khel* to the royal agent, called *Raj-Mukhtiar*.

This peculiar system of revenue administration made royal influence almost ineffective in so far as the said *Khels* and unions were concerned.

The king was at the apex of the judicial administration. He exercised judicial prerogative in all serious offences like murder. The *Bar Bhandari*, the *Raj Pandit* and the *Bar Majumdar* constituted a Judicial Committee, and advised the king in matters of capital punishment involving a Bengali. Certain judicial powers were allowed to be exercised by certain leading persons as well. The chief criminal power was vested by the king in the *Majumdar*, who, by virtue of his office became the head *Majumdar*. While the fiscal and criminal administration was thus provided for with the minimum of royal interference, civil disputes were settled without any interference whatever. Even in fiscal and criminal cases, references or appeals were made by the local judicial bodies or representatives of the king where disputes arose between the *Khels*. The king passed his decree in consultation with his *Pandit*.

3. Formation of the district : The district of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills came into being on 17th November, 1951 and

13. B. C. Allen : *Assam District Gazetteer*, Vol.I. Cachar. Calcutta 1905. p.35

was therefore the youngest district of Assam. It was constituted under the Assam Regulation X of 1951, vide Notification TAD/R./31/50/190 dated 27.8.1951 and covered an area of 5,883 sq. miles or 15,217.0 sq. kilometres with a population of 2,79,726. It was composed of two sub-divisions known as Mikir Hills sub-division, and North Cachar Hills sub-division, constituted out of a considerable portion of the districts of Sibsagar and Nowgong, formerly known as Mikir Hills Tract and Bhoi area of United Khasi Jaintia Hills predominantly inhabited by the Karbis. North Cachar Hills sub-division has been carved out of the plain district of Cachar.

Each of the sub-divisions under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India was conferred the status of an autonomous district, with separate administrative bodies known as Mikir Hills District Council and North Cachar Hills District Council. Each of the district Council is composed of 16 members, out of which 12 are elected by adult franchise and four are nominated by the Governor with a view to providing representation to other minorities inhabiting the autonomous district. Extent of the autonomy given to the Council is very wide and almost covers every aspect of life. For better administration and expediency the two autonomous districts have been brought under one administrative whole having two District Councils independent of each other, while for general administrative purpose there is one Deputy Commissioner of the district with its headquarter at Diphu. Under the Five Year Plans adequate measures have been taken for the development of the district in all spheres including agriculture, education, health and communications.¹⁴

14. In 1970, vide Govt. of Assam's Gazette Notifications Nos.AAP/134/68/22 dated 11th February, 1970 and AAP/134/68/19 dated 30th January, 1970—the erstwhile district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills was bifurcated into two separate districts of Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills with district headquarters at Diphu and Haflong respectively. Since 1976 the district, erstwhile known as Mikir Hills, has been renamed Karbi Anglong.

CHAPTER—III

PEOPLE

(a) POPULATION :

(i) **Total population (male and female) according to the Sub-division and Thanas :** According to the Census of 1971, the district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills, has total population of 2,79,726 including 1,50,127 males and 1,29,599 females. This accounts for slightly more than two per cent of the total population of the State. The following table shows the population according to the Sub-divisions and Thanas as per the Census of 1961.

Name of Police Station	Area in Sq.kms.	Males	Females	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1. Karbi Anglong	10,332.0	1,21,040	1,04,367	2,25,407
(i) Baithalangso P.S.	3,035.5	33,617	30,941	64,558
(ii) Howraghat P.S.	1,986.5	39,026	33,872	72,898
(iii) Bokajan P.S.	2,279.2	29,894	25,601	55,495
(iv) Diphu P.S.	3,045.9	18,503	13,953	32,456
2. North Cachar Hills	4,890.0	29,078	25,232	54,319
(i) Haflong P.S.	4,890.0	29,078	25,232	54,319
Total of district.	15,222	1,50,127	1,29,599	2,79,726

Of the two sub-divisions, Karbi Anglong is far larger in area as well as in population. It occupies more than twice the area and has

almost five times the population of North Cachar Hills. Among the police stations in Karbi Anglong, Diphu Police Station occupies the largest area but supports the lowest population and conversely Howraghat Police Station occupies the smallest area and supports the largest population. The other two *thanas*, Baithalangso and Bokajan occupy the second and third position respectively in respect of area and population. The North Cachar Hills has only one *thana* i.e. Haflong *thana*.

The population of women in the district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills has always been unusually low. This is in line with the phenomenon generally observed among all the districts in the State. In 1951, there were only 914 women to every thousand men and this ratio has declined to 863 in 1961. Sub-division-wise sex ratio came to 862 for Karbi Anglong and 867 for North Cachar Hills. This disproportion between the sexes is perhaps due partly to immigration and partly to unskilful mid-wifery and the debilitating effects of excessive child bearing which shorten the lives of the mothers.

Density of population : The density of population in the district of United Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills in 1961 stood at 22 and 11 per square kilometre or 56 and 29 persons per square mile respectively. Among the five *thanas* in the district, Howraghat *thana* was the most densely populated and Diphu *thana* most thinly populated. Howraghat *thana* had 95 persons per square mile against only 28 persons per square mile in Diphu *thana*. Other *thanas* in order of density are Bokajan 63 persons, Baithalangso 55 persons, and Haflong 29 persons per square mile.¹ For the earlier decades the density of population of the district per square mile was as follows :

Decades	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961
No. of persons per square mile.	7	5	5	6	23	28	48

Growth of Population : Though first census in Assam took place in 1872 and even prior to that there had been enumerations in 1847-48 and 1852-53, it is not possible to give a detail analysis of growth of population of the district since then as it came into being only in 1951.

1. *Census of India 1961, District Census Hand Book, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills.* pp. 21-22.

The district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills in 1951 had a population of 1,65,444 against 1,33,402 in 1941 giving a total variation of 32,038. This increase of 24.02 per cent during the decade has been much smaller had the population of 22,544 persons inhabiting Block I and Block II of the Jowai Sub-division of U.K. & J. Hills district which now form part of this district, been taken into account in the population figures of 1941. The population of Karbi Anglong in 1951 stood at 1,25,777 against 96,041 in 1941 i.e. showing an increase of 31% which included 23.5% due simply to the inclusion of the Jowai area. Thus actual percentage of increase would be hardly 7.5%. The population of North Cachar Hills in 1951 was 39,663 against 37,361 in 1941 showing a nominal increase of 6.2 per cent.

In 1961 the population of the district reached the level of 2,79,726 souls of whom 1,50,127 were males and 1,29,599 females, showing an increase of 1,14,286 persons over that of 1951. The percentage of increase during the decade came to 69.08 which was the highest percentage of increase among all the districts of Assam.² This high increase in population mainly took place in Karbi Anglong whose population in 1961 rose to 2,25,407 showing a net variation of 99,630. In terms of percentage it was 79.21% increase in population. This increase, the highest in India, was due mainly to influx of refugees from East Bengal (now Bangla Desh) and migration of tribal people from the neighbouring district after the constitution of the district.

Karbi Anglong though recorded highest increase in population in India, was still extremely sparsely peopled, there being only 56 persons per square mile (22 persons per square kilometre). The density, though increased considerably from that of 1951, was still the lowest among all the districts of Assam except that of Mizo Hills (now Mizoram). However, there were variations from this mean. There were considerable areas which supported a moderately dense rural population. Namati *mauza* which had the highest density of population of 235, was slightly lower than that of all Assam figure of 252. Barpathar and Sarupathar *mauzas* supported population of 310 to 160 persons per square mile. The most thinly populated areas of Karbi Anglong were the *mauzas* of Jamunapar, Naga Rengma, East Rengma, Duarbamuni and Duarsalana where the density of population varied from 20 to 30 per square mile. The density in remaining areas varied from 40 to 70 per square mile.

2. *Census of India 1961, Assam, District Census Hand Book, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills.* p.21.

The population of North Cachar Hills in 1961 rose to 54,319 showing a decadal variation of 14,656. This increase of 36.9% was slightly over that of the all Assam figures of 34.45 per cent. The whole of the Sub-division being hilly terrain is more extremely sparsely populated than Karbi Anglong. In 1961, it recorded a density of 29 persons per square mile or 11 person per square kilometre.

The following table shows decadal variation of population since 1901.³

Name of the place. ³	Year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage Decade variation	Males	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karbi Anglong	1901	Not available	—	—	49,666	46,375
	1911					
	1921					
	1931					
	1941					
	1951	1,25,777	+29,736	+30.96	65,812	59,965
	1961	2,25,407	+99,630	+79.21	1,21,040	1,04,367
North Cachar Hills.	1901	40,812	—	—	27,355	13,457
	1911	27,296	—13,516	—33.12	14,239	13,057
	1921	28,913	+ 1,617	+ 5.92	15,365	13,548
	1931	32,844	+ 3,931	+13.60	17,302	15,542
	1941	37,361	+ 4,517	+13.75	19,299	18,062
	1951	39,663	+ 2,302	+ 6.16	20,618	19,045
	1961	54,319	+14,656	+36.95	29,087	25,232

Immigration and emigration : According to the Census of 1951, 7,519 persons were born out side district out of the total people censused in the district (figures for Block 1 and Block 11 remain unaccounted). Of these 2,193 came from other districts of Assam, 1,652 from other States of India, and 3,674 from foreign countries. As far as inter-district migration was concerned, more than three-fourths of the people came

3. Population figures of Karbi Anglong from 1901 to 1931 are not separately available as it formed parts of Nowgong, Sibsagar and Khasi and Jaintia Hills till 1951,

from eastern part of Bengal through Goalpara and Khasi and Jaintia Hills. As for persons migrating from the other States of India, Bihar accounted for 587, Orissa 366, Manipur 209 and Madhya Bharat 186. The bulk of these persons were *coolies* serving in the tea gardens or doing other manual works. There were few artisans and petty shopkeepers from West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, and other States. As regards migration from other countries, Pakistan accounted for 3,322 and Nepal 323.⁴ The bulk of the immigrants from Pakistan who came after Independence in the form of refugees were from East Bengal (now Bangla Desh). They were agriculturists and settled mainly in the areas of the Howraghat Police Station. The Nepalese, for the most part, were graziers who keep large herds of cows and buffaloes. They have penetrated deep into the interior of the district and have established *Khuties*. Some of them have taken to cultivation also.

According to the Census of 1961, migration from rural to rural areas is the dominating feature of the district where as migration from rural to urban areas is very insignificant. The following table indicates the trend of movement within the district as revealed by 1961 Census.⁵

Migration of people within United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district.

Duration of residence		Male	Female	Total
	1	2	3	4
(i) Less than one year	(a)	1,379	552	1,931
	(b)	46	23	69
(ii) 1 year to 5 years	(a)	9,395	10,034	19,429
	(b)	40	45	85
(iii) 6 years to 10 years	(a)	5,852	6,321	12,173
	(b)	5	27	72
(iv) 11 years to 15 years	(a)	4,238	3,134	7,372
	(b)	47	12	59
(v) 16 years and over	(a)	8,888	7,511	16,399
	(b)	48	3	51
(vi) Period not stated	(a)	630	410	1,040
	(b)	—	—	—
Total migrants	(a)	30,352	27,962	58,314
	(b)	226	110	336

(a) Indicate migration from rural to rural areas.

(b) Indicates migration from rural to urban areas.

4. Census 1951, Assam, *United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District Census Handbook*, pp.208-216.

5. *Census of India 1961, Vol.III, Assam, part-A, p.127.*

The preponderance of the males is indicated in the above table. This is largely due to the fact that in the hill areas married couples have to make their own establishments and live in their own houses after marriage. Among certain tribes like Khasis etc., who are matriarchal, males generally go to live in their wives' houses after marriage permanently in case of the youngest daughter and temporarily in the case of other daughters. People also move in search of better fields for cultivation and for seasonal or permanent employment. Female migration is caused because of universality of the marriage as they have to move to the houses of their husbands after marriage. The movement of the people from rural areas of the district to the urban areas of the district was almost insignificant.

The inter-district migration figures reveal that United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district occupied the first place in Assam in respect of inter-district immigration and last place in respect of inter-district emigration during the decade 1951-61. The following table shows the extent of inter-district migration in the district.⁶

Year	Density per sq. mile.	Percentage of inter-district immigration to total population.	Percentage of inter-district emigration to total population.
1	2	3	4
1921	5	N.A.	N.A.
1931	28	1.18	Nil
1961	48	11.53	1.05

Analysing the salient features of migration it is observed that in the case of the hill districts of Assam, the figures of immigration mostly relate to movements of people in the service of Government as well as of some traders excepting in the case of the Garo Hills and United Mikir and North Cachar Hills where some population of the cultivation class have also moved.⁷

It has already been mentioned elsewhere that immigration from outside the State of Assam has been the important cause of the popula-

6. *Census of India, 1961, Vol.III, Assam Part I.A* p.130.

7. *Ibid*, p. 131.

tion spurt in the district. The following table shows the extent of immigration into the district from outside the State.⁸

Year	Percentage of immigration to the total population of the district.	
	Male	Female.
1	2	3
1951	4.19	3.57
1961	11.01	6.69

Figures of immigrants of earlier decades coming to the areas constituting the present district are not available. But there has been an alarming rise in the immigrants population during the decade 1951-61. The immigrants are mainly from East Bengal. It is believed that the number of immigrants was very high during these two decades. It has been observed in the Census report of 1961, that many immigrants did not disclose their true birth places obviously to avoid detection.⁹

(ii) **Distribution between urban and rural areas** : Urban population constituted only a very small fraction of the total population of district. The percentage of urban population to the total population in 1961 came to 1.17. No drift of population from rural to urban areas is noticeable in the district. According to the Census of 1961, the district had only one town, namely Haflong. Diphu though headquarters of the district since 1951 and had all the requisites of small township was not treated as an urban area in the Census of 1961. Haflong, the Sub-divisional headquarter of North Cachar Hills is categorised as town since 1941. It then had a population of 1,471 which in 1961 increased to 3,265. This increase in population is mainly accountable to the opening of new government offices. The following table shows the growth of population of Haflong town since 1941 :

Year	Area in sq.km.	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1941	—	1,471	+ —	—	932	539
1951	—	2,169	+ 667	47.38	1,302	866
1961	5.18	3,265	+ 1097	50.60	1,992	1,273

8. *Ibid*, p. 133.

9. *Ibid*, p. 134.

From the above it is evident that both Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills are overwhelmingly rural in character. In 1961, the Karbi Anglong had whole of its population living in 1,446 villages and the North Cachar Hills had 93.99 per cent of its population inhabiting 423 villages. The following table shows the number of villages since 1901.

Name	Number of villages in the year.						
	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Karbi Anglong	1,446	1,417	—	—	—	—	—
2. North Cachar Hills	423	417	341	339	354	312	254

According to the Census of 1961, the villages have been divided into seven groups according to the population. Classified as such 1,446 villages of Karbi Anglong fell into five groups. In the first group having less than 200 inhabitants, there were 1,097 villages having 83,702 persons. In the next group having between 200 to 499 persons, there were 275 villages inhabited by 84,740 persons. Both the group of villages i.e. having population less than 500 constituted 94.9 per cent of the total villages inhabited by 74.7 per cent of the total population. The third group having a population of 500 to 999 persons included 67 villages with 45,889 persons which formed 20.04 per cent of the total population. There were 6 villages having 8,022 persons or 3.5 per cent of the total population in the next group of villages having 1,000 to 1,999 persons. The fifth group having 2,000 to 4,999 persons included one village with a population of 3,054 persons who formed 1.4 per cent of the total population. There was no village in Karbi Anglong in the group having 5,000 to 9,999 persons and above.

In 1961, there were 423 inhabited villages in the North Cachar Hills. Classified by population in the first group having less than 200 inhabitants there were 379 villages having 35,748 persons. In the next group having between 200 to 499 persons there were 39 villages inhabited by 11,702 persons. Both the group of villages constituted 98.8 per cent of the total villages and inhabited by 93 per cent of the total population. The third group having a population of 500 to 999 persons included 4 villages with a population of 2,565 persons who formed 5 per cent of the total population. There was one village having 1,039 persons or 2 per cent of the total population in the fourth group having between 1,000 to 1,999 persons. There was no village in the North Cachar Hills which can be categorised in the next three groups of villages. The following table shows percentages of villages and population by size, class of villages in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills as per Census of 1961.

Percentage of Villages and Population by size class of Villages in 1961.

Year	Name	Less than, 500	500 999
		Percentage of number of villages in this class to total num- ber of villages	Percentage of population in this class to total popu- lation Percentage of number of villages in this class to total num- ber of villages. Percentage of population in this class to total num- ber of villages.
1	2	3	4
1961	Karbi Anglong	94.9	74.7
	North Ca- char Hills	98.8	93.0
5	6		
1000	1999	2000	4999
Percentage of number of villages in this class to total num- ber of villages.	Percentage of population in this class to total popu- lation.	Percentage of number of villages in this class to total num- ber of villages.	Percentage of population in this class to total popu- lation.
7	8	9	10
0.5	3.5	N	1.4
0.2	2.0	—	—

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	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Karbi Anglong	1,446	1,417	—	—	—	—	—
2. North Cachar Hills	423	417	341	339	354	312	254

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Percentage of Villages and Population by size class of Villages in 1961.

Year	Name	Less than,	500	500	999
		Percentage of number of villages in this class to total number of villages	Percentage of population in this class to total population	Percentage of number of villages in this class to total number of villages.	Percentage of population in this class to total number of villages.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1961	Karbi Anglong	94.9	74.7	4.6	20.4
	North Cachar Hills	98.8	93.0	1.0	5.0
		1000	1999	2000	4999
		Percentage of number of villages in this class to total number of villages.	Percentage of population in this class to total population.	Percentage of number of villages in this class to total number of villages.	Percentage of population in this class to total population.
7	8	9	10		
0.5	3.5	N	1.4		
0.2	2.0	—	—		

(iii) **Displaced persons** : In the wake of partition of India large number of Hindu refugees who were victims of communal riots in the erstwhile East Pakistan migrated to Assam. In 1951 Census, 1,948 refugees were censused in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district.¹⁰ Flow of refugees continued thereafter also and about two thousand displaced families migrated to this district. The district council of Karbi Anglong agreed to the rehabilitation of 450 families in and allotted 3,390 *bighas* of land for the same. Each family was provided 6 *bighas* of land and house building loan of Rs.500/-. Almost all the displaced families rehabilitated in the Karbi Anglong are agriculturists.

(b) LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS :

According to the Census of 1961, the people of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district spoke as mother tongue as many as 91 languages and dialects. 1,33,507 persons constituting 47.73 per cent of the total population spoke Karbi as their mother tongue. This shows reduction over that of 1951 when Karbi speakers constituted 52.02 per cent of the total population. The next in importance were the people speaking Bengali as mother tongue who numbered 23,473 forming 8.30 per cent of the total population of the district. This is an improvement over that of 1951 when Bengali speakers constituted only 4.37 per cent of the total population. The speakers of the Assamese language came to occupy third position and their strength increased from 3.5 per cent in 1951 to 7.77 per cent of the total population in 1961 and numbered 21,738. Speakers of Dimasa and Kachari as mother tongue numbered 19,534 and 16,001 and constituted 6.98 per cent and 5.72 per cent of the total population respectively. Speakers of other notable languages viz. Nepali, Hindi and Naga unspecified respectively numbered 9,234, 9,047, and 7,128 constituting 3.30 per cent, 3.23 per cent, and 2.55 per cent of the total population. There were numerous other languages but speakers of each of these languages constituted less than two per cent of the total population. This shows the polyglot nature of the district and this is one of the districts of Assam where according to the Census of 1961, the predominant language is spoken below 50 per cent of the total population of the district. But all tribal languages taken together constituted 72.04 per cent of the total population and consisted of 2,01,521 speakers. The following table shows the numerical strength of the people of principal language groups inhabiting the district.¹¹

10. *Census 1951, Assam, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District Census Hand Book*, p. 102.

11. *Census of India, 1961, Vol-III, Assam Part-1-A, General Report*. pp. 218-219.

Languages	1951		1961		Percentage of increase/decrease in 1961 over 1951
	Number of persons speaking as mother tongue.	Percentage to total population of the district.	Number of persons speaking as mother tongue.	percentage to total population of the district.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Karbi	87,545	52.93	1,33,507	47.73	— 52.50
Bengali	7,222	4.37	23,473	8.39	+225.02
Assamese	5,796	3.50	21,738	7.77	+275.05
Dimasa	4,755	2.87	19,534	6.98	+310.81
Kachari	—	—	16,001	5.72	—
Nepali	858	0.52	9,234	3.30	+976.22
Hindi	2,680	1.62	9,047	3.23	+237.57
Naga-Un-Specified.	—	—	7,128	2.55	—
Lalung	2,355	1.42	4,916	1.76	+108.75
Bodo/Boro	14,864	8.98	4,333	1.55	— 70.85
Khasi	677	0.41	3,888	1.39	+474.30
Garos	172	0.10	3,534	1.26	+1054.65
Hmar	1,625	0.98	3,429	1.23	+111.02
Kuki un-Specified.	15	N.A.	2,914	1.04	+19,326.61
Oriya	187	0.11	2,166	0.77	1,058.29

These figures show an alarming decrease of Karbi speaking population in contrast to other tribal and non-tribal linguistic groups between 1951 and 1961. The reason may be explained by the fact that authenticity of linguistic survey made in 1951 Census is still questioned by some quarters and probably in 1951, some kin tribal languages were wrongly grouped. It may also be mentioned that after 1951, good many developmental works were taken up in the district along with setting up of district, sub-divisional and local supervisory offices, resulting in flocking of people from other parts of the country as well as of the State to the district for livelihood and settlement, in form of Government employees, cultivators, farmers, traders and labourers.

Bilingualism : Although there are numerous linguistic groups in the district bilingualism has blunted the edge of their differences and has brought about emotional integration of the people. Hindi and English

are taught in the secondary schools having Assamese or Bengali as the medium of instruction. Assamese is widely understood in Karbi Anglong and even the people of interior areas can express themselves in broken Assamese. Same is the case with Hindi in the North Cachar Hills. Broken Assamese serves as a lingua franca among different tribes while broken Hindi is used in communicating with other linguistic groups. According to the Census of 1961, out of 1,33,507 people speaking Karbi as mother tongue, 70,916 people were shown as bilingual speaking any of the three languages. Assamese could be spoken by 69,328, Khasi by 1,058 and Hindi 530. Among 21,738 people whose mother tongue was Assamese, 1,556 could speak English, 1,554 Hindi and 290 Bengali. Out of 23,473 whose mother tongue was Bengali 6,826 could speak Assamese, 1,261 English and 898 Hindi. Among 9,047 speakers whose mother tongue was Hindi, 2,252 could speak Assamese, 386 Bengali and 111 English. Out of 9,234 people who returned Nepali as their mother tongue, 1,874 could speak Assamese, 1,627 Hindi and 168 Bengali.

Both the Assamese and Roman scripts are used by Karbi, Kachari and Dimasa tribes whereas Hmar and other Naga tribes are using only the Roman script for their dialects. The people amongst whom the number of converts to Christianity are in the majority, they have invariably taken up Roman script for writing their dialects.

(c) RELIGION AND CASTE :

The religious life of the people of the district is predominated by Hinduism which according to the Census of 1961 claimed 81.22 per cent of the total population as its followers. Next comes Christianity whose followers constituted 9.85 per cent of the total population in the district. Muslims formed a very small segment of the population of the district. Out of the total population only 1.25 per cent were returned as followers of Islam. Other religious communities such as Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains etc., formed even less than one per cent of the total population in 1961.

Hindus : The Hindu community numbered 1,84,021 in 1961 against 84,768 in 1951 in Karbi Anglong and 43,181 in 1961 against 30,275 in 1951 in North Cachar Hills. This phenomenal increase of Hindu population is mainly due to the fact that many Karbis and Kacharis have returned themselves Hindus. Formerly tribal communities used to be classified as animists. According to the Census of 1961, Karbi Anglong had a scheduled tribe population of 1,88,129. Of this population 1,33,501 returned as Hindus; 16,941 Christians; and 17,687 professing other

religions like Garo, Karbi and other indefinite beliefs. According to the same source scheduled tribe population of North Cachar Hills numbered 43,202 of whom 32,610 were returned as Hindus, 10,538 as Christians and only fifty four as other indefinite beliefs. Migration of Hindu refugees and other Hindu people into district have also contributed to the increase of Hindu population.

Christians : Christian population in the district has made rapid headway during the period 1951-61. In Karbi Anglong it increased from 4,954 in 1951 to 16,988 in 1961 showing a decadal variation of 12,034. In North Cachar Hills Christian population increased from 6,070 in 1951 to 10,560 in 1961 showing decadal variation of 4,490. Christianity has its followers among all the tribes of the district but it has made much inroad among tribes like Nagas, Kukis, Hmars etc.

Muslims : Muslims though constitute a very small proportion of the total population is showing signs of rapid increase. Karbi Anglong in 1951 recorded only 41 Muslims. This in 1961 increased to 3,026. Most of the Muslims are concentrated in Howraghat P. S. area and are agriculturists by profession. They have migrated from the neighbouring district in search of land or other agricultural avocations. Muslims in North Cachar Hills are few. In 1951, there were 235 Muslims who in 1961 increased to 474.

Other Religious Communities : Buddhists, Sikhs, and Jains each claiming 870, 221, and 28 persons constituted a very small percentage of the total population of Karbi Anglong. In North Cachar Hills it is still smaller and number of Buddhists and Sikhs are only 3 and 13 respectively. The following table shows the population of the district religion-wise as per Censuses of 1951 and 1961.

Religion	1951		1961	
	Karbi Anglong	North Cachar Hills	Karbi Anglong	North Cachar Hills.
1	2	3	4	5
Hindu	84,768	30,275	1,84,021	43,181
Muslims	41	235	3,026	474
Christians	4,954	6,070	16,988	10,560
Sikhs	—	13	221	26
Buddhists	100	3	870	16
Zorostrians	—	9	—	—
Jains	—	—	28	1
Other Religions	13,370	3,063	19,939	3
Religion not stated.	—	—	314	68

Principal Communities, Castes, Classes and tribes : The district has been the habitat of many tribes and races from time immemorial. Presently more than fifty per cent of Karbi Anglong and sixty nine per cent of North Cachar Hills population belongs to Scheduled tribes. The Karbi tribe is more numerous especially in Karbi Anglong while Dimasas Kacharis in North Cachar Hills. The other tribes inhabiting the district are Lalung, Nagas, Kukis, Khasis etc. The caste system and social life of the non-tribal is more or less the same as in the neighbouring plains districts and will be elaborately found in the District Gazetteers of those districts. As such, only the scheduled tribes found in this district will presently be described here.

(d) SOCIAL LIFE :

The Karbis : The Karbis are one of the most numerous tribe inhabiting the Karbi Anglong. They are also found in other districts of Assam viz., Nowgong Kamrup, Dacrang and Sibsagar. According to the Census of 1961, speakers of the Karbi language numbered 1,54,232 constituting 1.30 per cent of the total population of the State. In Karbi Anglong they accounted for 47.73 per cent of the total population.

The origin of the word 'Mikir', which was originally used to denote the Karbis is still shrouded in mystery. Perhaps it is the name given by the Assamese. They call themselves *Arleng* or *Karbi* which means man in general. According to their own legends they originally settled in Tularam Senapati's territory (in North Cachar Hills) but were driven into Jaintia Hills (now in Meghalaya) by the Kacharis. Being harassed by the Khasi or Synteng Chiefs they moved into the Ahom territory and placed themselves under protection of the *Rajas* of Assam. Since then Karbis are living peacefully in their hilly country assigned to them.

Racially, the indigenous people of Karbi Anglong who call themselves *Karbis* or *Arlengs*, belong to the Tibeto-Burman race. Their colour is light yellowish brown and the girls are often fair. The men are as tall as the majority of the hill tribes. The nose is broad at the base and often flat. The facial hair is scanty and only a thin moustache is grown. The front of the head is sometimes but not generally shorn. The hair is gathered into a knot behind which hangs over the nape of the neck. The body is muscular and capable of enduring prolonged exertion.¹²

12. C. J. Lyall: *The Mikirs*, reprint, p.4.

The Karbi people, those who continue to live in the hills are divided into three sections or groups called *Chinthong*, *Ronghang* and *Amri*. However, these groups or sections do not indicate true tribal division supposed to be derived from common ancestors and united in blood. These names in all probability refer to their habitats. *Amri* seems to be a Khasi river name and *Ronghang* is the legendary site of the *Sot Recho* capital. The real tribal exogamous division is called *Kur* (a Khasi word). Each of the three sections of the race has within it the same *Kurs* and the individual belonging to these *Kurs* whether *Chinthong*, *Ronghang* or *Amri* must marry outside his own *Kur*. Each of the *Kur* is again sub-divided into number of sub-groups. The number and names of the *Kurs* of exogamous groups are differently described by the different writers. Probably, there are, in all, five principal *Kurs* viz., *Ingli Teron*, *Lekthe*, *Timung* and *Terang*. Each of these *Kur* is further sub-divided into a number of sub-groups. All the *Kurs* are socially on an equal status.

In religious beliefs and practices they have borrowed much from the Hindu mythology. The ideas and the names of *Baikuntha* (*Vaikuntha*, *Vishnu's* paradise), *Norok* (*Naraka*, Hell), *Jom Recho* (*Yama Raja*, the Lord of the dead), *Ingli Teron* (*Yama Raja*, the Lord of the dead), *Lekthe* (*Yama Raja*, the Lord of the dead), *Timung* (*Yama Raja*, the Lord of the dead) and *Terang* (*Yama Raja*, the Lord of the dead) are the few to be mentioned. Elaborate death ceremonies are performed so that spirit of the dead gets admittance to the *Jom's* city. The characters and episodes of *Rama Alun* more or less resembles the story of *Rama* narrated in *Ramayana*. But it is to be remembered that they do not have idols, temples or shrines. They have plurality of gods and also believe in God Almighty whom they call *Arnam Songsar Recho* (the creator of the universe). Some of the gods of *Karbi* pantheon are *Arnam kethe* (the great god), *Peng* (household god), *Hemphu* (head of the house), *Mukrang* (similar to *Hemphu*), *Rek-anglong* (the mountain of the community) or *Inglong pi* (great mountain), *Arnam paro* (the hundred god) etc. These gods are invoked and propitiated both individually and publicly to grant prosperity and avert misfortune. Besides there are numerous gods whose names are associated with special diseases over which they preside or which they are asked to avert. Some of them are *Chomang-ase* (Khasi, fever), *Ajo-ase* (the night fever), the deity of cholera (*ma-vur* or *pok-avur*), *So-meme* (evil plain), *Thengthon* (recurring sickness and troubles) etc. Throughout the year, the Karbis perform various religious rites to appease various gods. Sacrifice of fowls and use of rice-beer are indispensable for the performance of various rites and ceremonies.

The Karbis also believe in witchcraft and black magic. Long and severe sickness is often attributed to *maja* (witch-craft). To discover the author of the spell, of the god or demon who has brought the

trouble, the services of a diviner are necessary. The diviner, if male is called *Uche*, if female *uche-pi* (*ojha*). They are of two grades—the humbler whose craft is acquired merely by instruction and practice, and the higher who works under the inspiration or afflatus of divine powers. The former is called *Sang kelang abang* (the man who looks at rice and in Assamese who is known as *Mangalsua*), the latter, invariably a woman, is the *lodet* or *lodet-pi*. In serious sickness or distress the latter is called in, on ordinary and less important occasions, the former.

They follow a patriarchal system of family. The line of descent is patrilineal and the children assume the title of father. At death, the sons inherit the property, though the eldest gets somewhat more than the other sons. If there is no son, then the property passes to the brothers and after them to the nearest agnate of the deceased. The wife and daughter get nothing. But the widow can retain the property by marrying into her husband's *Kur*.

Polyandry is not known to the Karbis. Monogamy is the rule, though there are some exceptions to it. The marriage before maturity and between the same clan does not take place, the boy and girl must be of two different clans. Marriage is also not allowed if the mothers of both boy and girl are of the same clan or the girl's clan is that of his maternal uncle's wife. Marriage with maternal uncles' daughters is preferred.

Three kinds of marriages are prevailing among the Karbis. First, there is a *akejoi* marriage i.e. marriage without price. The bridegroom has to pay nothing as a bride price to the bride's father. Secondly, there is *akemen* (literally ripe) i.e. marriage with service. The bridegroom has to serve in the bride's house for a certain specified period for a year or two or even it may be for life according to agreement. Third kind of marriage which is very rare is known as *osomer jijan chalanglok*. It resembles *gandharva* marriage among the Hindus in former times. The boy and girl unite themselves in a marriage tie without the consent of their parents and without undergoing formal marriage ceremony. The formal ceremony may be held at a later stage even in the presence of grown up children but must be celebrated within the life of both the partners. No discrimination is shown to such couples in the village.

Marriage is generally held with the consent of the parents. If a young man takes a fancy of a girl, then he sends his parents to her father's house and if the girl's parents agree, the boy's father presents a

betrothal ring or bracelet for the girl. Sometimes even a gourd of rice beer is taken and accepted. This ceremony is called *ke-roi-dun*. With the fixing of the marriage day, rice-beer and spirits are prepared by both the families. If the bridegroom is rich, he provides liquor to the whole countryside (*hor-hak hor tibuk*). On the way to the bride's house, the bridegroom's party offers one gourd of beer to each village they pass through and arrive bride's house in the evening. Then one gourd of beer and one bottle of spirit are offered to bride's father. Thereafter follows the most interesting ceremony of the marriage. A colloquy ensues between the bride's and bridegroom's parties. "The bride's father asks the bridegroom's why they have come, and why these offerings. He answers, 'Your sister (i.e. the wife of the speaker) is becoming old and cannot work, so we have brought our son to marry your daughter.' (The custom formerly was that a boy must marry his first cousin on the mother's side, and if he did not, the maternal uncle could beat the lad as much as he liked; but now they can do as they please). The reply follows: 'My daughter is unworthy, she does not know weaving and other household work.' 'Never mind, we will teach her ourselves.' The bride's father then asks his wife to enquire of girl if she will take the lad; without her consent, the beer and spirits cannot be accepted. If the wife reports consent, the beer and spirits are drunk by the two fathers. Sometimes they sit the whole night before the girl's consent is obtained. If any knowing old men are there, they sing in two parties, 'we cannot send our daughter to your house.' 'We cannot leave our boy to stay with you.' When the question of consent is settled, all eat together. Then the bride prepares the bed inside the house for the bridegroom, in the *kam*; in the *tibung* if there is room; if not, in the *thengther*; but if the lad is ashamed, he sends one of his garments to take his place in the bed."¹³

If the marriage is *akejoi*, the bride goes to her husband's house next day accompanied by her parents. There they are entertained with food and drink and returns the following day. If the marriage is *akemen* then the boy stays in father-in-law's house. He rests for a day and then works there for the term agreed upon. Usually if the daughter is the only child of the parents, the marriage is *akemen*, otherwise in a great majority of cases marriages are *akejoi*.

Adultery is very uncommon. Widow marriage is allowed. Divorce is also permissible but cases are very rare. Divorce is allowed if

13. Ibid, p.18.

there is no child or the girl goes home and refuses to return to her husband. In that case husband takes a gourd of beer to her parents and declares himself free. After the divorce, both the parties can re-marry.

Among the Karbis women occupy an important position in the society. The wife is treated by the husband with respect and accepts her as an equal partner. She takes an equal part in all occupations, ceremonies and diversions of the men. Prostitution and traffic in women are unknown in the society.

The Karbis cremate their dead. Funeral ceremony is the most elaborate, costly and important of all the ceremonies in the Karbi society. This can be held either at the time of cremation or after-wards when the relatives are financially able to undertake it. Poor families have to wait for the performance of this ceremony for five years or even longer. This is performed over the burnt bones, and consists in the offering of a victim to the spirit of the departed followed by drinking, singing and dancing often kept up for several nights in succession. The ceremony is also known as *Chomangkan*. Such ceremonies are obligatory in all cases except that of child who has been born dead or who had died immediately after birth. Such a child is buried without any ceremony. Persons dying of cholera and small pox are buried immediately. Later on funeral service is held for them on the bones sometimes dug up and duly cremated. Death caused due to the mauling of tiger is imputed to the victim's sin. The dead is buried at a distance from the village as it is believed that tiger visits the burial place. He can not be admitted to *Jam-arong* (abode of dead) unless there are elaborate funeral ceremonies performed for him.¹⁴

Rice is the staple food. Rice is husked at house usually by the females. It is pounded with a long pestle in a wooden mortar. Fowls, pigs and goats are reared for food as well as for sacrifices. *Pupa* or eri silk worm (*attacus ricini*) is a delicacy. This is eaten roasted and curried. Fish is also eaten but dry fish is most commonly used. Eating of cow flesh is a taboo. Even milk is not drunk. Vegetables are also used. Morning meal is taken at about 7 or 8 a.m. and evening meal after the day's work is over. At every meal a pinch of food is set aside as offering to *Arnam* (God).

14. For details see *The Mikirs* by C. J. Lyall, pp.37-42.

Drinking is most common. Rice beer is the national drink and every household makes it. It is required on all the ceremonial occasions, be it connected with child birth, marriage or even death. Women also equally share drinks with men in marriage and all other social ceremonies. Most favourite are *laopani* (rice-beer kept in a gourd) and distilled drinks but the first one is more popular.

The Karbis have their own traditional dresses and ornaments. On his head he wears a turban (*pahu, poho*) and a *dhoti* (*rikong*) of cotton on his loins. The coat is sleeveless striped jacket (*choi*) with a long fringe covering the buttocks and coming round in front (*chos-apre*). A thick wrapper (Assamese, *bor kapor*) of eri-silk (*pe-inki*) is used in winter. The legs remain uncovered and shoes are not worn. Female dress consists of petticoat (*pini*) of white and red striped eri cloth, secured round the waist by an ornamental girdle called *Vankok*. The *ji-so* a wrapper covers the upper part of the body passing under the arms and drawn tight over the breast. The head remains uncovered except in funeral dances when it is covered with a black scarf (*ji-so ke-ik*). Only women on attaining puberty tattoo. There is only one perpendicular line with indigo down the middle of the forehead, the nose, upperlip and chin. No other part of the body is tattooed. Traditional jewellery mainly consists of *Kadengchunro* (a large silver tube weighing three or four *tolas* inserted in the lobe of the ear), hanging earrings (*ko-rik*), necklaces (*lek*) made of gold or silver, and coral beads. Rings (*arnan*) and bracelets (*roi*) of gold and silver are also worn.

The Karbi people have a liking to build their houses on the hill tops. Their villages are small and scattered. Villages are generally named after *Gaonbura* and even a small village of hemlets has its own named after *Gaonbura* and even a small village of hemlets has its own named after *Gaonbura* and even a small village of hemlets has its own named after *Gaonbura* (to be distinguished from *Sarkari Gaonbura* appointed by the Govt.). They are known for their migratory character. They are prone to shift from place to place on pretexts like outbreak of diseases, failure of crops and mauling of villager by tiger and in search of new pastures for *jhuming*. Their migratory habit has proved to be a bane in consolidation of their economic life. It frustrates all developmental efforts for building the village economy on a firm foundation, for when villages shift, schools, wells, and roads are left behind, never to be used again.

Traditional Karbi houses are generally build on stilts and the floor is several feet above the ground. The material used for the super-structure is bamboo and for the roof, the thatch. The house is divided

lengthwise by the partitions into living, guest and servant's room. The pigs are kept under the house. Furniture of the house is of very simple nature. Floor or raised platform of bamboo serves as bed. A block of wood is used as a stool to sit on. Baskets of bamboo and canes are used for storage. Joints of bamboo (*lang bong*, *Chunga* in Assamese) are used for holding and carrying water from springs or rivers. Household valuables are also kept in these *chungas*.

There is a village council in each village. It is presided over by *gaonbura* (*sarthey*) and all male householders are its members. Minor village disputes are referred to it. It also inflict small fines and takes decision regarding the shifting of village to a new site. There is a great council (*me-pi*) composed of *gaonburas* only and presided over by the *mauzadar*. Grave matters such as charges of adultery, witch craft aimed at life (*maja kechonghoi*), tigers in the *mauza*, arrangements for the *Rongker* or annual village festival and such other matters are referred to it for decision.

In former times there used to be another important village institution called *risomar* (association or club of youngman). This used to be composed of village lads (from twelve to twenty years of age and had its own house. There used to be a number of office bearers in this organisation and village *gaonbura* used to exercise general authority over them. But this institution has now become extinct.

The Karbis are great lover of dance and music. Their traditional musical instruments are *pongi* (flute), *muri* (*fife*), *cheng* (drum), *cheng-brup* (small hand drum used by the *risomar* to accompany dancing at funeral feasts), and a *kum* (one stringed fiddle). The beginning of the cultivation is celebrated with a great festival *Rongker*. It is an annual village festival. Gods are invoked and goats and fowls are sacrificed. The meat of the slaughtered animal is eaten with rice beer. It is a festival of menfolk. Women are not allowed to participate in this festival. Similarly at the harvesting, another festival *Hacha* is celebrated but no sacrifice is held. The whole village mutually co-operate in bringing the crops in and feast together with rice and rice beer, dried fish and dried meat saved up for this occasion.

Hunting and fishing are the other past-times of the village life. Deer, wild pig, iguana (*gui*) and tortoise are the usual prey. They also lay traps with spears for tigers. A spear is so placed to get it discharged

from a spring formed by a bent of sapling. Twice round the pug gives the height of his chest at which the spear is pointed and a rope of creeper stretched across the path releases the spring when the tiger passes that way and comes against it. Fishing is done by means of traps and baskets. It is also done with rod and line.¹⁵

The Dimasa Kachari : The Kacharis are one of the most numerous and widely spread tribe in the north eastern India. They have been described as "the aborigines or earliest known inhabitants of the Brahmaputra valley. They are identical with the people called Mech in Goalpara and North Bengal."¹⁶ According to Dr. S. K. Chatterjee and Fr. Matthias Harmannas they belong to Indo-Mongoloid (*Kiratas*) group which include the Boros and their allied tribes.¹⁷ "As is the case with the Meche (Mech)", says Fr. Harmannas "so also with the Kacharis (Boros), the Mongoloid features are very prominent, the strong cheek bones, silt eyes, a slight growth of hair in the body and scant beard".¹⁸

The origin of the word Kachari is difficult to trace. Different versions have been adduced as regard to the origin of the word. According to Sir Herbert Risely, one of the two progenitors of the human race settled in the tract at the foot of the hills between the Brahmaputra and the Kosi river, called *Kachar* by the Nepalese and his descendants were Mech, Koch and Dhima tribes. If *Kachar* was an early home, then they may well be called Khacharis or Kacharis. But according to E. A. Gait, the word *Khachar* is derived from Sanskrit which means 'broadening region.' The district of Cachar might have been named from this word or might have been so called after its great tribe, the Kacharis. But Gait opines that Kacharis did not get their name from Cachar as they were known by that name in other parts far removed from Cachar.¹⁹ According to B.K. Barua the word is "connected with Sanskrit *Kaksata* a hypothetical formation paralleled to Sanskrit *Kirata*."²⁰

The Kacharis do not call themselves by this name, that is, Kachari, and it is certain that it is a name given to them by others. They call themselves *Bodo* or *Bodo-fisa* in the Brahmaputra valley and *Dimasa* or *Dima-fisa* or sons of the great river in the North Cachar Hills.

15. The account of the Karbis is based on the book *The Mikirs* by C. J. Lyall.
16. E. A. Gait : *A History of Assam*; Reprint : Calcutta, 1967, p.299.
17. S. K. Chatterjee : *Kirata-janakrti, The Indo-Mongoloids, Their Contributions to the History and Culture of India*, 1951, p.13.
18. M. Harmannas : *The Indo-Tibetans*, Bombay, 1954, p.38.
19. E. A. Gait : *A History of Assam*, Reprint Calcutta, 1967, p.299.
20. B. K. Barua : *A Cultural History of Assam*, Gauhati, 1969, p.7

The Dimasa Kacharis greatly inhabit the northern half of the North Cachar Hills and ravines of the Jatinga valley and the adjoining tract. They are also found in small scattered groups in the Karbi Anglong. According to the Census of 1961, the speakers of Dimasa language constituted 6.98 per cent of the total population of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district.

The average Dimasas are physically strong and squatty with thick calves, broad heads with stumpy nose of snubbed tip, high cheek bones with languish eyes with top eyelids drooping. Their complexion is of saffron or mixed of it. Their belles dress the hair in the back in tight knot.

The Dimasa Kacharis believe in existence of one supreme being whom they call *Madai-i* under whom there are several other *Madais*, including family deities and evil spirits. The creator of these *Madais* is known as *Arikkhidima* who is supposed to have the form of a big female bird. Tradition has it that at the beginning of the world, *Arikkhidima* had a divine conception. There was a great difficulty for her to find a suitable nesting place for laying the eggs. At long last, after having flown out all the four corners of the earth in search of a suitable place, she landed on a big banyan tree (*paradesari para phansari*). This tree was said to be so strong that not a twig, nor even a leaf of it would drop even at the heaviest storm. There on that tree, *Arikkhidima* made nest and laid down seven divine eggs. Six of these eggs hatched out in due time. The first one to come out was *Brai-Sibrai*. He was followed in succession by *Aloo Raja* (also known as *Doo Raja*) *Naikhee Baja*, *Wa Raja*, *Ganyung-Braiayang* (*Mungrang Raja*) and *Hamyadao*. The last named one, *Hamyadao* or the bad one as the name indicates, got impatient at the last egg for not hatching out in time, and is said to have kicked at the egg which was yet to mature. It broke and the liquid content fell hither and thither, on land and water, hills and dolls, trees and rocks and turned to be evil spirits possessing which ever objects it fell on. These spirits are also called *Madais* but they are said to torture human beings and make them suffer until propitiated because, the egg having been broken, prematurely the prospective *madai* inside it was deprived of being worshipped as an ancestral god by men like the other six duly hatched out. *Sibrai*, being the eldest, is worshipped as common god by all the Dimasa Kacharis and is honoured by them mentioning his name first in all their prayers. The last one *Hamyadao* because of his misdeeds forfeited his right to be worshipped as an ancestral god. The remaining

four became *Nokhoni Madai* or family deities and are worshipped by the respective *Khels*, a group of *sengphos* or sects of the Dimasa Kacharis. According to another account, the six gods from *Sibrai* to *Hamyadao* in the form of human being were the ancestors of Dimasa Kacharis and are worshipped by them as their ancestral gods.²¹

The religious practices of the Dimasa Kacharis are reflected in their *Daikho* system. *Daikho* (*Madaimi Boko*) literally means God's house or temple. A *Daikho* has a presiding deity with a definite territorial jurisdiction and a distinct group of followers known as *Khel*. Generally speaking it is a group of *Sengphos* or sects but there are *Sengphos* which may belong to more than one *khel* according to the *Khisang* family line. There is a fixed number of twelve *Daikhos* only to which every Dimasa must belong just as he must belong to any of the fixed forty *Sengphos*. The presiding deity of each *Daikho* is periodically worshipped ceremoniously which is known as *Misengba* or sacrifice of animals. At an interval of three or more years, sometimes at a shorter interval, at times of threatened famine, such as successive failures of crops due to drought etc., a date convenient to the followers, generally in dry season, is fixed for the purpose and the representatives from various places, as also animals and bird required for the ceremony are assembled at an appointed place. The ceremony is then held with solemnity by the *Jonthai*, the priest of that *Daikho* and his assistants called *Dainyabs*.

Every Dimasa Kachari family worships its ancestral deity once a year before sowing the next paddy and the ceremony is known as *Madai Khelimba*. This is done for the general good of the family as *Misengba* is for the general welfare of the community. It has the same procedure and formalities as *Misengba* but is performed on a much smaller scale. Moreover the services of *priest* and *jonthai* are not used for its performance. The family deity is also worshipped for the welfare of an individual. This form of worship is called *Madaima Dainba*. It is a miniature form of *Madai Khelimba*.

The Dimasa Kachari believe that illness of person is a mishap caused either by one of the evil spirits born of the premature divine egg already mentioned which are also called *Madai* or by any one of the innumerable witches called *Sagai njik*. Oracles are consulted to determine as to which of the *Madais* or *Sagai njik* is involved and a sacrifice

21. B. N. Bardoloi : *The Dimasa Kacharis of the North Cachar Hills District of Assam*, Gauhati, 1976, p.8.

is made to propitiate him or her as the case may be. This form of worship is known as *Madai Huba* or *Sagai Njik Huba* depending upon the spirit causing trouble. The priest doing the ceremony is called *Hojai*. He is assisted by other functionaries. *Madai Huba* ceremony is done in the day time excepting Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday where as *Sagai Njik Huba* may be performed on any day but always at night as the witches are considered to be nocturnal spirits.

The Dimasa Kacharis believe that a witch is a woman without a *Julu* (female sect). She is supposed to possess supernatural powers capable of causing harm to the person with whom she is displeased. It is believed that such a woman can transform herself into any convenient object and enter into any being to bring harm to it or to worsen the condition of the ailing person. Such suspects are therefore both feared and looked down upon in the society. Witch-craft is also believed to be hereditary on the female side i.e., the daughter of a witch automatically inherits the knowledge from the mother. Such girls are therefore seldom formally married and when a marriage takes place the bride can not demand the usual *Kalti* (the bride price paid by the bridegroom). Women bearing *Julus* are so much scared that they would not allow any woman other than belonging to the same *Julu* to use their wearing apparels, ornaments, combs, cosmetics from the same container, as transmigration of witchcraft is believed to take place by such inter-use. There are innumerable *Sagai-njiks* the highest among them is known as *Heremdi* who has the place of Hindu Goddess, *Kali*. While all other *Sagai-njiks* are considered to be evil spirits, *Heremdi* has the place of goddess. She is worshipped once every year by the whole village for protection of the community and is never known to trouble any individual like the other witches who do so always. She is also worshipped by a family occasionally for the good of the members. *Para Khoba* and *Dithar Khoba* are the other pujas performed to propitiate the evil spirits, the former in case of repeated mishaps or accidents with narrow escapes such as attack of wild animals, snakes or fall from tree and the latter in case of general run down of health or chronic ailments. The Dimasa Kacharis also offer sacrifice to the spirits of their dead ancestors every year in the *Jhums* after paddy has been sown. This is called *Simang Khoba*. This is supposed to bring good harvest.

The Dimasa Kacharis follow the patriarchal system of the family and father is the head of the household. As this society is comprised both of male clans and female clans, the system of inheritance is some

what peculiar. The sons inherit the property of their father and daughters inherit the maternal property or mother's property consisting of jewellery cloths, looms etc., used by the mother. The sons can never inherit the mother's property even if there is no daughter. In such a case, the maternal property is inherited by the nearest female or cognate relative belonging to the clan of the deceased women. Conversely father's property can not be inherited by the daughters even if there is no son. In such case the property is inherited by the nearest agnate of the deceased. In the event of disputes regarding the rights to the property of a deceased person, the *Khunang* the headman of the village alongwith other *Khunangs* of the neighbouring villages decide the case. But the most interesting part of this customary rule of inheritance is that as soon as a man inherits the property of the deceased, he also inherits all the debts of the deceased and becomes liable to pay off the debt, no matter if the amount of debt is more than the value of the property inherited by him.

The marriages in Dimasa Kacharis are strictly monogamous. One wife and one husband is the rule of the society. Widow marriage is allowed. A Younger brother may marry the elder brother's wife, but an elder brother can never marry the widow of his younger brother. Similarly a man can marry the younger sister of his wife but not the elder. Marriage between persons standing in the relationship of cousins is allowed but within the nearer tie of consanguinity is not permitted. As already mentioned, the Dimasa Kachari society is comprised forty male clans (*Sengphos*) and forty two female clans (*Julus*). Both of these clans are exogamous. To give an example, one male sect is called *Hasungsa* and one female sect *Sagaodi*. In case a *Hasungsa* male marries a *Sagaodi* female, their male issues will be *Hasungsas* and female *Sagaodis*. The sons (*Hasungsa*) can not marry any woman of the mother's clan. In the same manner the daughters can not marry the man in their father's clan. Thus though no blood ties exist, in many cases marriage between certain persons can not take place simply for the bar of the sect or clan. On the other hand cousins marriage is allowed. If two brothers of *Hasungsa* respectively marry women of *Pasaindi* and *Sagaodi* clans and have as issue a daughter and a boy respectively, the boy will be *Hasungsa* and the girl *Pasaindi*. The first cousins can not marry, both fathers having been *Hasungsa*. But allowing the first cousins to marry a *Banglai* wife and a *Rajuing* husband respectively, their children as *Hasungsa* (the boy) and *Pasaindi* (daughter) may contract marriage ties, the male having no *Pasaindi* clan in his family.

Marriage by negotiation is the prevailing practice among the Dimasa Kacharis. After a boy has fixed his choice on a girl of his own or any

other village, intimates his parents about it through his friends and relatives and sends them to the parents of the girl to find out whether they have any objections to the match. But in most cases it is the parents who make the selection though it is done only after ascertaining the wishes of the boy. On this occasion (*Sandi-dangsingfa*) the boy's party carries a packet of salt (about one kg. in weight) wrapped up in plantain leaves tied with seven threads and offers the same to the girl's parents after initial discussions. If this packet of salt is not returned within a reasonable time, then marriage is considered settled. Thereafter the boy's parents have to visit the bride's house three times along with gourds of beer, the occasions being called *Lao thai langba*. It is only on third visit that the bride price is settled. Among Dimasa Kacharis bride price is called *Kalti* and it varies from rupees fifty to rupees two hundred depending upon the means of the bridegroom. After this, marriage day is fixed according to the convenience of both the parties. Marriage takes place in the bride's house and is consummated there. After third day the bridegroom with bride return to his parents house, the occasion being called *Phira phoiba*. After staying three or four days he returns to his father-in-laws house, for *Min-phabha* (the period of stay is decided along with *Kalti*). During this period, the newly married couple is obliged to live with bride's parents. On completion of this period the boy takes his bride to his own village where he generally puts up in a newly constructed house.

Among Dimasa Kacharis, child marriage is unknown. Marriage outside the tribe is not at all favoured. Divorce is permitted if the aggrieved party or parties appeal to *Khunang*, the traditional village headman and village elders. If the divorce takes place because of the fault of the husband, he can not demand the repayment of the *Kalti*. On the other hand if the divorce is due to the fault of the wife, the *Kalti* must be returned to the husband. In cases of mutual divorces, the repayment of *Kalti* is also settled mutually.

The woman in the Dimasa Kachari society is assigned quite a high place, next only to the position of woman under the matriarchal family. She has her own *Julu* (clan) and daughter takes the *Julu* of the mother not of her father. In matter of inheritance also mother's property is inherited only by daughters. In certain functions like the christening of the child, women, especially the *Hojai Jika* and *Annuamala*, have the absolute say. However in the administrative sphere of the village or society they have no voice. In certain Pujas they are not allowed to participate. Except these few disabilities, they participate in community dances and

songs and freely mix with the opposite sex. They are free to seek divorce before the village council in cases of maltreatment, adultery, and such other cogent grounds.

The birth of a child is an occasion for joy in the family. After the birth of the child the mother is isolated. This isolation lasts till the *Daosathaiba* ceremony which is held after the removal of the naval cord. The *dhai* (*Hojai jig*) christens the child by breaking the egg. Then a feast is held to celebrate the occasion. In addressing the married people who have children it is customary to call them by the name given to the eldest child with the affixes *Pa* or *Fa* (father) and *Ma* (mother), so and so father and so and so mother and not by their real name. In the case of the couples who have no offspring the term *Shagrifa* and *Shagrima* are used signifying the father of no child and mother of no child.

The Dimasa Kacharis cremate their dead. The dead body is washed and dressed in new clothes, the corpse is placed inside the house on a mat. A fowl is thrashed to death and placed at the foot of the deceased so that it might show the deceased right path to heaven. Every funeral guest places a gift by the side of the corpse calling out at the same time name of deceased and expressing his regret at not having seen him before his death. Widow does not tie her hair till cremation. The dead body is cremated by the side of the river or stream. A frontal bone is retained and on the day following the cremation is placed carefully wrapped in cloth in a miniature house raised on the spot where the body was cremated. The bone is allowed to remain in the *Mankulung* as this house is called until the next *Bishu* (*Bihu*) or harvest time. It is then taken out and dropped into the nearest river or stream. On the third day after the cremation, a function called *Jumangsao Khainba* is held for purification. On this occasion only rice beer is served. *Sradha* ceremony is performed according to the convenience of the family. Generally it is held in dry season. The whole village is entertained. Pigs, fowls and *zu* are the pre-requisites of this feast. This ceremony is called *Maimuthesha*.

The body of child less than two months is not cremated but buried and no ceremony is performed. Women dying of child-birth is buried and all her property is thrown in the jungle or buried. No feast is also held. The body of the man who has been carried away by a tiger is buried on the spot where found.

Rice is the staple food of the Dimasa Kacharis. It is husked at home by the females. Perhaps with the exception of beef, they deny

themselves almost nothing. Pork is the great delicacy. There is, however, one common article of food, which no orthodox old fashioned Kachari will ever take i.e. milk. Among other delicacies is the dried fish. The small fishes are not cooked or prepared in any way but simply dried in the sun. Vegetables grown in the kitchen gardens, *jhums* or procured from forests supplements their staple diet. Home brewed rice beer called *zu* is like a vintage for them after the days hard work. It is a must on all the occasions of feasts, wedding and death ceremonies and festival of *Bihu*. There are many who indulge in drinking country liquor.

The female dress consists of *rijamfai*, worn round the breast and *rigu* worn round the waist with a shoot used as *Dupatta* called *Rikhaosa*. All these three pieces of dress, they weave themselves with their own distinct designs of embroidery and display. They wear ornaments viz *Pool* (necklace made of silver with costly sea shells), *Khamonthai* (gold earring), *Chandrawal* (silver necklace), *Rongborsa* (necklace made of silver coins), *Khadu* (silver bracelet), *Easidam* (nose ring made of silver), *Khamonhai* (silver earring), *Liksim* (necklace made of blackbeads), *Likjai* (necklace made of beads) etc. The male wears a *Risha* (like *Dhuti*), shirt and *Chaddar* (*Rimsao*).

The Dimasa Kacharis have a tendency to built their houses on hill slopes with river or streamlet flowing near by. The houses are constructed in two rows facing each other with a sufficiently wide gap in between. The villages used to have protecting fencing with only two gates, one at the top of the village and the other at the bottom. The practice has been given up now. Like the villages of other tribe's, each village have bachelor's dormitory called *Nodrang* for the unmarried boys of the village. The females are never allowed to enter it. In front of it a big piece of wood is placed where the villagers often assemble to fix the dates for village functions etc.

The Dimasa Kachari's dwelling house is a simple hall built on plinth of earth. It is a bamboo and *ekra* structure with posts and thatch for roof. The floors and walls are plastered with mud. The hall is divided by a partition wall into two parts. The outer chamber is known as *Nokhong* which is about two-third of the entire hall while the remaining one-third comprises the inner chamber called *Noringh*. The outer chamber is meant for the use of all purposes including dinning, sleeping and sitting while the inner chamber is used as kitchen and dormitory for the unmarried girls. All the articles of daily use belonging to the household are kept in the same house at different places meant for par-

ticular purposes. The houses have no particular furniture except *piras* for sitting and bamboo mats for sleeping. Utensils are of bronze and brass. For keeping or carrying requisites, various types of baskets are used.

Every village has a headman called *Khunang*. He is assisted by *Dilig* and *Habaisagao*. Traditionally *Khunang* is to be elected by the village elders in a formal meeting held in front of *Nodrang* but in practice he is succeeded by his male descendent. The three together constitute a sort of an executive body with all the administrative functions of the village. The *Khunang* presides over all the meetings assisted by two other dignitaries. The *Dilig* acts as a sort of vice-chairman and can perform some of the functions of the *Khunang* in the absence of the latter, while the *Habaisagao* does the duty of the announcer. The *Khunang* wields considerable influence and in fact his authority in village affairs is undisputed. He along with two dignitaries and village elders tries petty cases of criminal and civil nature

Another important institution of the village is *Hangsao*. It is an association of unmarried boys and girls of the village. It is organised for the purpose of working together in cultivation and lasts only for one year. At the beginning of the cultivation, the youngmen of the village assemble in a meeting to decide to form a *Hangsao*. They elect their leader. The leader is called *Naga Hoja* (*Naga* means unmarried youngman). He is the guiding spirit of the party and commands implicit respect and obedience from every member. The next in command is *Naga Pharai*. They have their girl counterparts known as *Matla Hoja* and *Matla Pharai* (*Matla* means unmarried young girl). These two girls conduct the affairs of the girls association. *Hangsao* has also its president called *Gejebao*.

Throughout the year, the members of the *Hangsao* work together in the *jhums* cultivating by rotation an area of land at every member's field. No member should remain absent during the work but should a member fail to be present for unavoidable reasons his absence is made good by a fine of one basket of paddy called *Bangki*. Such fines in the shape of paddy are collected for preparation of *Zu* for use during the occasional meeting in the house of the *Gejebao*. A nominal amount is also charged for the work done in the fields of every member which is collected at the end of the year for expenses during *Bishu* (*Bihu*) festival. They also work for the non-member family on payment of nominal charge. It is however their duty to cultivate free of charge for *Gejebao*. Usually

a large area is cultivated and *Zu* for *Bishu* festival is prepared from the paddy of such cultivation. The entire show of the festival is run by this organisation. The amount thus collected is spent in procuring animals for meat and other edibles for the festival. The *Hangsao* lasts till the final function or parting social *Digarlaiba* which takes place during the *Bishu* (*Bihu*).

Another institution of the village is *Surem*. It is *Hangsao* in a miniature form with less formalities. It is an organisation of persons of similar age group and sex for working together in the fields. It has no office bearers. There may be more than one *Surems* in a village but there can be only one *Hangsao* in a village.

Music and dance play an important role in the day-to-day life of the Dimasa Kacharis. Their wind instruments are *Muri*, *Muri-wathisa* and *Suphin*. Another one-string instrument which is like a *Been* is called *Kkaram Dubung*. They have only one type of drum called *Kharam*. In every dance use of *Muri* and *Khram* is indispensable.

Among the important festivals of the Dimasa Kacharis mention may be made of *Rajini Gobra*, *Harni Gobra* and *Bishu* or *Bihu*. The celebration of the former two is held once a year before the cultivation. *Rajini Gobra* is celebrated in day time and *Harni Gobra* during the night. The celebration of *Bishu* is an occasion of joy and merry making. It is the most important festival of the Dimasa Kachari. No date is fixed but it is held after harvesting is done as per convenience of the village. It continues for seven days, first day is devoted to the worshipping of deities and remaining six days are exclusively for drinking, dancing, feasting and merry making. As already mentioned *Hangsao* take the leading part in making arrangements for the celebration of *Bishu*.

The Lalungs : The Lalungs who numbered 4,916 and formed 1.76 per cent of the population of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district in 1961 are mainly concentrated in the Amri Community Development Block area of Karbi Anglong. They are also found in small pockets in the Howraghat Community Development Block area. The Lalungs in the hills unlike those in the plains follow matriarchal system.

They call themselves *Tiua* which in their language means the people who were lifted from below. They are one of the autochthonous people of Assam. It appears that *Lalung* is a Karbi word formed of two parts,

Lang and *Lung* meaning 'water' and 'to sink in it' respectively. The story goes that during the invasion of Assam by *Man* (Burmese) the Lalungs were driven from the eastern part of their habitat in the plains towards the Kalang river of Nowgong district. In their attempt to cross the river they were drowned and were rescued by the Karbis. After this incident the Karbi people started calling them *lang-lung* which later changed to *Lalung*.

Certain accounts connect the *Lalung* with Hindu tradition and myths. There is a belief that the original language of the Lalungs was Sanskrit and that they were *Kshatriyas*. When Parasuram set out to destroy all the *Kshatriyas* to avenge the death of his father at the hand of a king named Sahasrabahu Arjuna, the Lalungs decided to go to hiding and escaped to the Lailung hill on the northern side of the Brahmaputra. They stopped speaking Sanskrit and discarded the sacred thread. Eventually they forgot their original tradition and language. When they returned to their homeland they were not recognised as *Kshatriyas* but were called Lalungs after the Lailung hill where they hid themselves so long.

Yet another story attributes their origin to the God Mahadev one of the Holy Trinity of the Hindus. One day Mahadev fell into a deep sleep after taking a huge quantity of *lao-pani* (rice-beer). Saliva rolled down from both sides of his mouth. Since things coming out from the body of a god may not be wasted, a man and a woman were born of the saliva. They were the first *Lalung* couple. Tradition also has that as the Lalungs were born from the mouth of Mahadev they were endowed with the capacity of keeping in memory their songs and lore uttered through mouth.

According to belief, their original homeland was Helem in the eastern part of Darrang district. After they had lived there for centuries, dispute arose between them and the Bodos. Eventually they left that place and after crossing the Brahmaputra settled at Charaideo. They did not live long at this place. They left Charaideo to be occupied by *Chutiyas*, a separate tribe—with whom they claim to have many similarities. They migrated south-west by the fringes of Karbi Anglong and entered the Khasis and Jaintia Hills. There they settled at a place called *Khyrim* and lived many years under the Jaintia king. Again dispute arose among them and a large number migrated to the north to the plains of Nowgong.

The tribe can be divided into two groups—hill Lalungs and plains Lalungs. In their settlement pattern, there are environmental differences. In the hills, dwelling houses are built on high knoll. Every house has

a small patch of kitchen garden and a courtyard well protected on all sides with bamboo stakes. The living house has a rectangular ground plan with thatched gabled roof on the top. The door is at the end overlooking the courtyard. In the plains they build their houses on plinth. The materials used are available in forest. But they always build their granaries on stilts. The houses are generally two-roofed each having a door but no window. In the homestead three houses are often built enclosing a courtyard on three sides. One is for sleeping, one for cooking and eating which is known as family *Barghar* and the other is for storing paddy.

Agriculture is their main occupation. They rear pigs and fowls and as such their houses are devoid of fruit trees which are found in Assamese houses. Their staple food is rice. *Chu* or country liquor prepared and brewed from rice plays an important part in all their rituals. They eat the flesh of all domestic animals except the cow.

According to one account Lalungs have twelve main clans which are named after the places where they lived in originally. Each clan has its own sacred house (*Barghar*) and its presiding deity is Mahadev. In the Census of 1961 a list of twenty-seven *phoids* or clans has been given which is said to be not exhaustive. Besides there are numerous sub-divisions of each *phoid*.²²

Lalung clans are strictly exogamous. Though marriage through negotiation is the usual practice they prefer marriage by elopement. Child marriages are unknown among them and polygamy is not common. A widow can remarry and can claim the hand of her deceased husband's brother. The Lalungs originally formed a matrilineal group and continue to be so even today in the hills. But those who have settled in the plains tend to be patrilineal.

They cremate their dead in a specially erected pyre. For post-funeral ceremony they do not have any fixed time limit. Generally every three or four years all the members of clan together perform the post-funeral ceremony for all those who died during the period.

Their villages are well organised and all disputes are decided by the village-council (*Bura-Khel*). In the hill areas custom of separate

22. *Census of India, 1961, Vol. 111, Assam, Part-V-A, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, p.14.*

sleeping houses for the unmarried youths and maidens is still kept up. But in the plains this institutions is not functioning. However, its aims and traditions still survive in the community works by young men. The dormitories are now used as a club-house by the young boys and as meeting place for the village council. The leader of the young men *Changdolo* plays an important part in community life. The organisation and responsibility of the spring festival *Sagrame-chewa* which is held in March is borne by him. The *Loro* and *Deuri* are two other important village functionaries who conduct rituals. They perform a number of religious ceremonies like *Magh Pisu* (*Magh Bihu*) in January, *Sagramechewa* and *Barsela* in March. *Boisag Pisu* (*Bohag Bihu*) in April, *Jogkhong Puja* in May, *Mahadev Puja* in August, *Laiyu Rakhewana* in September and *Washriawana* in October.²³

The Rengma Nagas : The Rengma Nagas of Karbi Anglong inhabit the strips of hills that lie between Barpathar and Chokikhola. Their estimated population is about 2,000 scattered in 12 villages. They are believed to be of the same stock of Rengma Naga in Nagaland. According to one account, they migrated from Nagaland to the present abode due to internal strife during the reign of Kamaleswar Sinha. Their Chief Kehang offered tribute to the Ahom king and he was bestowed with a title of *Phukan*. But some believe that their migration took place during the reign of Ahom king Rudra Sinha. All the Rengma Nagas living in Karbi Anglong have embraced christianity.

The Rengma Naga family is patrilineal. Father is the head of the family and after his death sons inherit the property. If there is no sons the property passed to the nearest agnate. Adoption is allowed but adoptee must be of adoptor's clan. The Rengma Naga society is divided into eight exogamous clans of *Kenpuwnyu*, *Kanrinyu*, *Resobinyu*, *Jisenbinyu*, *Sabinyu*, *Nyenthanyu*, *Nangdonyu*, and *Henbunyu*. Marriage between the same clan is prohibited. A man will have to find out his life partner outside his own clan. A Rengma Naga also can not marry the daughter of his maternal uncle (Mother's brother's daughter which is preferred among some of the tribal communities). Widow marriage is allowed. An elder brother can not marry the widow of his younger brother but vice versa is the practice. If there is no younger brother, then widow must marry within her deceased husband's clan. Marriageable age for a boy is about twenty years and for a girl sixteen years. Monogamy is the rule. Divorce, though permitted, is rare.

23. N. K. Shyam Choudhury and M. M. Das : *The Lalung Society*, a monograph, Pub. by the Director of Anthropological Survey of India.

Marriage takes place by negotiation. Generally boy's parents approach the girl's parents and makes a present of tea-leaves, sugar etc., and rice beer. If the girl's parents are agreeable then a date for *Sempen* is fixed. On that day the boy's father presents a *Jenkathang* (long dao) and a *Miik* (spear) to the girl's father. Marriage (*jenkhin*) can take place only after a year from this date. On the appointed day bridegroom party arrives at bride's house and then the ceremony begins with songs and dances. The bridegroom's party sings a song intending to take the girl and on refusal by the bride's party there ensues a mock fight between the two until at last the bride is captured and taken to the bridegroom's newly constructed house. At this stage, there is much weeping from the girl's side. Though all this is done mockingly, it reflects that at one stage marriage by capture was in vogue among Rengma Nagas. But these are relics of the past and gradually being done away with. Marriages are now solemnised according to the conventionalities of the christian marriage.

The Rengma Nagas burn their dead. The burial takes place as soon as all relatives of the deceased assemble. Edible articles are offered to the dead. There is a great deal of mourning. Certain food like *yam* is prohibited among the family members of the dead. Before the lapse of one year, another death ceremony called *Chankhewen* is held. All the relatives of the deceased are invited to it.

The Rengma Nagas have their own traditional dresses but younger generation have almost disowned them. Like other tribal societies dance and music are an inseparable item of their day to day life. They organise a number of feasts and festivals. *Nyada* (held in December) *Pi-pe* (held in January), *Kennyu* (held in November) and *Khong-Kepang* are the important ceremonies of Rengma Nagas.

A village in Rengma language is called *Phen* and a house *Kale*. The houses in a village are constructed in two rows, one facing the other but leaving a sufficient space in between. This space serves as a playground to the children. The houses in a row are close to one another, in the back side, there are small vegetable gardens. The houses are built on a raised platform, the height of which are lower than the Karbi houses. The building materials are grass, bamboo and woods. The number of houses in a village varies from 10 to 50. The traditional house is usually divided into three or four rooms leaving the passage all through in one side from the front to the back side of the house. The

front of the house is an open platform called *Sa*. The first room of the house as one enters is *Kahu Swen*. There is fire place in this room where people chat and gossip by the fire side. Next to this is *Pheken Swen* where tools for husking paddy are stored. The third room is called *Togwen Swen*. There are two beds here and a fireplace in between the beds. This room is meant for head of the house and his wife. Next to this room is called *Kanyu Swen* where unmarried daughters sleep. Here also there are beds and a fireplace. In these last two rooms foods are also cooked.

Like other tribal communities there is a youngmen's club in each village. The house is called *Rengshe*. It is the centre of all village activities. Gradually this institution is losing its ground. The oldest man of the village is called *Pethinyu* and village administration is his responsibility. Village disputes are settled by village council presided over by *Pethinyu*.

The Zemi Nagas : The Zemi Nagas live in three different areas—the North Cachar Hills, Manipur and Nagaland. They are classified as one of the sub-tribe of Kecha Naga. The Zemi Nagas living in Nagaland call themselves *Zeliang*. In the North Cachar Hills they have been living along with other tribes like Kachari, Kuki, Hmars etc. since the last eighteenth century. Originally they migrated from Nagaland via Manipur and settled down in the north-eastern part of the land. They also went as far as the bank of the river Kopili. With the decline of Kachari power, they became the easy victims of Angami Nagas depredations. As a result some of them migrated to the west and settled in the hills beyond the Mong-Diyung valley. They speak their own Zemi dialect. They are of Mongoloid race. They are well-built, strong and healthy and have thick black hair and a fair complexion.

They follow the patriarchal system of family and father is the sole authority of the household. After father's death, the eldest son inherit the property and in return has to look after his younger brothers and sisters. They have six clans namely *Napame*, *Nkuame*, *Heneume*, *Nriame*, *Sogame* and *Panme*. Of them *Napame* and *Nkuame*, are considered as belonging to the same clan and marriage between these two clans is not encouraged. The clans are exogamous and no marriage can take place between the members of the same clan. Marriage is held by negotiation. There is a system of bride price which is paid in terms of *Mithuns* by bride-groom to bride's parents. Cross-cousin marriage is preferred.

The religion of Zemi Nagas may be termed as animism. They believe in the existence of one supreme God and eight other gods under Him who are associated with health, water etc. They believe in witchcraft and black magic. They also believe in the existence of a spiritual world. That is why when a man dies it is thought he is making a journey to spiritual world and provisions of food etc., that may be required on the way are made. The relatives of the dead arranges a feast and offer the share to the deceased in a basket. The dead body is put in a coffin and buried. A flat stone slab with some markings is placed on the grave as a symbol of identification.

The villages of the Zemi Nagas are on the breezy hill-tops. In the past when village raids were regular affairs, the hill-tops provided better advantages for defence. In each village, there are dormitories for young boys and girls. The boy's dormitory is called *Hangseuki* and girl's dormitory is *Langseuki*. All the young unmarried boys and girls of the villages stay in night in their respective dormitories. As soon as one is married he or she ceases to be the member of *Hangseuki* and *Langseuki*. These dormitories are the centres of learnings as well as the village recreational activities. The girls are taught weaving, spinning, singing, dancing etc., and boys are taught wrestling, hunting, making of handicrafts etc. These dormitories also serve as guest houses.

They have their own traditional and colourful dress and ornaments. Dancing and singing are the routine of daily life. They celebrate six important festivals during the year. Modern civilization has not made any significant impact upon them. Only a small section of Zemi Nagas is converted to christianity.

The Kukis : Their original settlement was Central Asia. From there they migrated to eastern India through Shan States of Burma where they are called as *Chin*. In India they are called Kukis though both are the same people. They are of Mongoloid stock and strong and stouty.

The Kukis are divided into 37 groups and each group has a number of clans and sub-clans. Family system is patriarchal and sons inherit the property. Marriage among the Kukis are monogamous. Cross cousin marriage is preferred, Monogamy is the rule. Divorce and widow marriage are allowed. They have been described as animists by religion, and sacrifice animal to propitiate different spirits at the time of sickness. Now a great majority of them have accepted christianity.

They prefer to live in hilly place and their villages are cluster of houses closely constructed on hill-tops. Each family has one house without any inside partition. Village headman wields considerable power. There is court called *Dewan* where cases are tried by the headman assisted by some wise man called *Siemang* and *Pachong*. Like other tribes, they have their own traditional dress, ornaments, dance and music. No doubt christianity has brought considerable changes in their socio-economic life yet the usual customs, laws and habits which their forefathers adopted from time immemorial are still observed and adhered to.

The Hmars : They also came from Burma and Manipur and settled in North Cachar Hills. They are of Mongoloid stock. The tribe is divided into exogamous clans but the exogamy is not very strictly adhered to. Monogamy is very strictly followed. Cross cousin marriage is preferred. Divorce is permissible. There is a system of bride price which used to be in kinds but now-a-days it is paid in cash and varies from Rs.200/- to Rs.500/-. The youngest daughter usually gets a higher bride price.

Almost whole of the tribe in North Cachar Hills is now converted to christianity. Prior to it their religion was animism and their God was *Pathien*. Sacrifices were offered for his appeasement. Now they have churches in their villages and religious rites are performed according to the tenets of the christianity.

Like other tribes, villages of the Hmars are also on the hill-tops. Their houses are built on wooden planks. Each family has a single house divided into several compartments. They used to have their traditional dances and music, dresses and ornaments etc. But these appear to have been forgotten. Only woman folk are found to put on their traditional dress and ornaments.²⁴

The Garos and the Khasis : The Garos and the Khasis also inhabit the district in small numbers. Both follow the matriarchal system of family and lineage is traced through mother. The children takes the title of mother and daughters inherit the property. The Garo villages are mainly concentrated in Neparpatty area under Bokajan Tribal Development Block. They belong to Tibeto-Burman group of the family. The Khasis mainly inhabit the Amreng and Socheng Tribal Development

24. B.N. Bordoloi : *District Hand Book, United Mikir & North Cachar Hills District, Gauhati* 1972 pp.28-29.

Blocks of Karbi Anglong and in the areas of North Cachar Hills bordering to Meghalaya. Both the tribes are followers of the christianity.

The Shyams : The Shyams or Aitunias also inhabit in small number in the plains area of Barpathar and Balipathar in Karbi Anglong. They are said to have migrated to Assam along with the Ahoms from Thailand, a neighbouring country of Burma. They are Buddhists by religion and have *Pagoda* like monasteries in the villages. Their chief priest is called *Chamun*.

They follow the patriarchal system of family and sons inherit the property after father's death. They have no exogamous group among themselves but marriage within close relation is not allowed though there is no bar against cousin marriage. They practise monogamy. Divorce and widow marriage is permitted. The dead bodies of the aged persons are cremated and those of younger ones are buried. The death ceremony is completed within seven days. The Shyam women are adept weaves.

In addition to the above, there is a sizeable population of non-tribals like, Assamese, Bengalis, ex-tea garden labourers etc. They are mostly found in the different plain areas of the district. Nepalis also inhabit the district in sizeable strength. They are mostly graziers and *Khutiwallas*. They have penetrated into interior places of the district.

CHAPTER—IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

(a) LAND UTILIZATION AND RECLAMATION :

Agriculture is the key industry and the backbone of the economy of the district. More than three-fourths of the population derives its livelihood from it. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, there were large tracts of waste lands which were subsequently cleared up and brought under cultivation with the increase in population. Following are the land utilization statistics of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills.¹

(Figures in acres)

	1951	1957	1961	1964
1. Forest	(a) 19,83,185	10,10,525	13,13,208	8,83,497
2. Barren and uncultivable land	13,68,984	N.R	N.R	27,92,535
3. Net area sown and cultivated	77,693	95,441	97,444	1,36,163

(a) Figures for the year 1951-52 only.

N.R. : Not reported.

There is a vast tract of land which is lying uncultivated as current fallows and other uncultivable area in both Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. The majority of the population of the district are hill tribes who live on hill tops practising *jhuming* or shifting cultivation. They do not like to face any difficulty by reclaiming such lands when there are sufficient fertile lands available in the hills for *jhumings*. More-over they are not equipped with proper tools and implements to reclaim such areas as most of them perform their agricultural operations with simple tools like *Dao* and *Kodal*. Hilly terrain of the region presents another difficulty in reclaiming such waste lands.

1. *Census of India, 1961, Assam District Census Hand Book, United Mikir & North Cachar Hills*, p. 318, and *Statistical Abstract of Assam, 1960-61, and 1967-68*, pages 73 and 117 respectively.

The people of Karbi Anglong especially those who live in hills are of migratory habits. They are prone to shift their villages to other places on any conceivable pretext like the outbreak of any disease, failure of crops, or in search of new *jhum* lands, mauling by tiger etc. Moreover when in a village ten or twelve houses sprang up, four or five families shift to another hillock and start a new village of their own with their new *gaonbura*. Each cluster of houses situates sufficiently away from another. These conditions preclude the possibility of any social and economic betterment. Schools and wells can not be given to a cluster of few houses. The existence of countless clusters of villages makes communication extremely difficult. To make the matter worse, when the people shift villages; even the existing schools, wells, roads are left behind never to be used again. Villages in North Cachar Hills have more or less permanent sites.

Govt. of Assam have therefore taken up schemes for land reclamation and rehabilitation through Agricultural Department. One land reclamation scheme was taken up in Karbi Anglong in 1957. This aimed at establishing two planned and permanent villages of hundred families each in plain areas. The villages were Tarabasha and Bahini. Govt. of Assam sanctioned a sum of Rs.1,10,000/- only out of which Rs.64,000/- was given to 200 families @ of Rs.320/- per family, Rs.5,000/- for purchase of implements @ of Rs.25/- per family, Rs.23,000/- for purchase of 46 pairs of bullock; Rs.4,697/- for purchase of seeds and Rs.2,000/- for purchase of plants and grafts. The scheme was completed in 1959-60 and about 2,000 acres of cultivable waste was reclaimed.

Another scheme of rehabilitation and reclamation for tribals was taken up in 1959. Under the scheme four model villages, two in Karbi Anglong and two in North Cachar Hills, were established with adequate homesteads land and terraced and plain land for raising cash and food crops. One hundred families were rehabilitated in each village and for reclamation including terracing and contour bunding, subsidy of rupees one hundred was provided to each family besides free supply of improved seeds, manures and fertilizers, pesticides and a pair of bullock. The land was made available by the respective District Councils at the following places.

Karbi Anglong ..	.. Honkram and Semelangso.
North Cachar Hills ..	.. Nabalaidisa and Vetabhomor.

The District Council of Karbi Anglong in 1959 has passed a resolution for regrouping of small villages with sizable ones, each containing a minimum of fifty houses. According to it house tax at double the existing rate on villages having less than fifty houses is levied. This applies only to the hill areas where house tax is levied in lieu of land revenue. Out of 993 villages 609 villages have since been re-organised and double the house tax is being levied on the remaining small villages. The selection of sites for the reorganised villages is completed and the preliminary notifications to fix the village boundary are being published. It is expected that regrouping of the remaining villages will also be completed shortly.

(b) IRRIGATION :

Without an adequate and regular water supply agriculture is precarious. Development of irrigation becomes indispensable where rain water is not adequate, certain, or assured for raising multiple crops. The average annual rainfall in Karbi Anglong is about 1200 millimetres which is far below the all-Assam level and is not considered sufficient for agricultural operations. North Cachar Hills has an average rainfall of about 2,525 millimetres. Rainfall is heavy during the months of June to September. This is considered sufficient for the purpose of agriculture during the period but not adequate for winter and spring crops. However, in places where there exist small streams or rivulets, irrigation is done by constructing a small dam across the rivers or streams thus diverting the whole or part of the accumulated water through channels to fields. There is no major irrigation project either in Karbi Anglong or in North Cachar Hills. Formerly medium irrigation projects were executed by Embankment and Drainage Department, later on by Flood Control and Irrigation Department; and minor irrigation projects were controlled by the Agricultural Department through their Irrigation Wing. Now there is a separate Department of Irrigation which looks after all the irrigation works in the district including survey, execution and maintenance of irrigation projects. The following is the account of irrigation projects, executed or under execution in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district.

Irrigation Projects in Karbi Anglong :

Jamuna Irrigation Project : It is a medium irrigation project described as the first of its kind executed in the district. The waters of the Jamuna river has been harnessed to irrigate the areas of Langphar

mauza of Karbi Anglong and Hojai, Namati, Jugijan, Kapahibari, Kaki, Lumding, and Lanka areas of Nowgong district. Though the headworks of the project are located at Bakulia in Karbi Anglong, the benefits of irrigation are enjoyed largely by the people of Nowgong district. The gross estimated area under the Jamuna Irrigation Scheme is 27,089.64 hectares and the area benefited by the scheme is 20,200 hectares. The cost of the project was initially estimated at Rs.195 lakhs in 1962 when construction began. The scheme is still under the preliminary stage of construction. The main crops grown in the area are paddy, jute, sugarcane, oilseeds, and pulses.

Langparpan Irrigation Scheme : It is located about 30 kms. from Diphu and the source of water is the Langparpan river which is perennial one. It is a diversion flow type scheme with a gross commanded area of 750 acres. Water is supplied through four canals as follows :

1. Main Canal (right side) — 12.84 metres.
 2. Main Canal (left side) — 6.00 metres.
 3. Public canal .. — 6.00 metres.
 4. Canal from right tail — 15.56 metres.
- cluster to Dilangsonala.

The scheme was completed in 1963 with an estimated cost of Rs.1.40 lakhs.

Borjan Irrigation Scheme : This is located at about 24 kms. from Diphu. It is a lift irrigation scheme. Water is lifted at Borjan from the river Jamuna through 3 diesel pumps of 66 H.P. each. The length of main canal is 8.626 kms. The scheme was completed in 1967 with an estimated cost of 4.64 lakhs.

Harina Irrigation Scheme : It is a diversion flow type scheme on the river Harina. Its main head-works is located at Sanjuri at a distance of about 3 kms. from Dengaon. It has one main canal, length of which is 8.5 kms. The scheme when completed will provide 45 cusecs of water for irrigation. The scheme is likely to be completed in 1973 with an estimated cost of Rs.24.75 lakhs.

Patradisha Irrigation Scheme : The scheme is located at about 7 kms. east of Bakulia. It is a flow type irrigation scheme and will provide water to an area of 3,400 acres in Karbi Anglong. The work of the scheme was started in 1965 and was completed in 1968-69

with an estimated cost of 33.4 lakhs. The total length of the canal is 25 kms.

Horguti Irrigation Scheme : It is flow type irrigation scheme likely to be undertaken in 1972 to harness the water of river Dikhari for irrigation purposes. It will irrigate an area of 6,270 acres in *mauzas* of Namati, Duar Dikharu and Duar Bamuni. The scheme will be completed by 1973 with an estimated cost of Rs.43 lakhs.

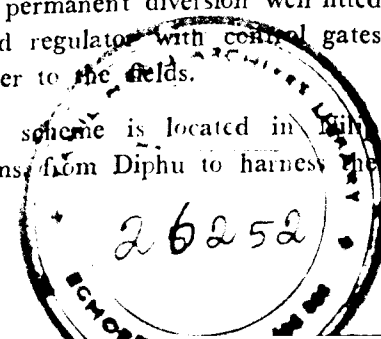
Kanjukpathar Irrigation Scheme : It is located at Kanjukpathar under Howrahhat Development Block at a distance of 80 kms. from Diphu. The headworks of the scheme will comprise of a semi permanent earthen dam of 81 metres in length and 2 metres in height. The crest sides and the aprons of the dam will be provided with boulder pitching so to dispose of the surplus amount of water in the form of overflow spillway. On one flank of the dam, there will be a head-regulator fitted with a controlling gate. The network of feeder canal will have a total length of 4,000 ft. and will command an area of 350 acres. The scheme is likely to be completed in 1970-71 with an estimated cost of Rs.1.20 lakhs.

Hongkram Irrigation Scheme : It is located under Rongkhong Development Block at a distance of 160 kms. from Diphu. It is being installed at the mountainous course of perennial streamlet known as Langherai. The head-works will comprise of a semi-permanent dam, 80 metres in length and a permanent over-flow spillway span of 25 ft. to dispose of the surplus water. Water to main canal will be fed through a head regulator fitted with control gates. The total length of the main canal will be 12,000 ft. and that of the branch canals 2,000 ft. There will be another head regulator installed at the juncture of the main and branch canal by means of control gate to feed the water to the fields. The net commanding area of the scheme will be 1,800 acres. The scheme is likely to be completed in 1970-71 with an estimated cost of Rs.2.04 lakhs.

Donka Irrigation Scheme : The scheme is under construction and is likely to be completed in 1973 with an estimated cost of Rs.4 lakhs. Its head works would comprise of permanent diversion weir fitted with numbers of sluice gates and a head regulator with control gates with a net works of canals to convey water to the fields.

Deohari Irrigation Scheme : The scheme is located in Diphu Development Block at a distance of 20 kms. from Diphu to harness the

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river Deohari for irrigation purposes. The salient features of the schemes comprise of submerged weir, sluice gates, bunds and a head regulator fitted with control gates, supplemented with a net works of canal system. The scheme is also likely to be completed by 1973 with an estimated cost of Rs.2.7 lakhs. It will irrigate an area of 350 acres.

Sarihajan Irrigation Scheme : It is a lift irrigation scheme located at Sarihajan under Bokajan Development Block. The salient features of scheme would be a storage type of reservoir from which water would be lifted by means of electrically operated pumps. The scheme would cost about Rs.0.75 lakhs and irrigate an area of 200 acres.

Irrigation Projects in North Cachar Hills :

Taragahadi Irrigation Scheme : This is a flow type Irrigation scheme. The site of the project is approximately eleven kilometres from Maibong Rly. Station towards the north. Water is being tapped from the Mahur river by constructing a boulder saudades weir across the river. The benefited area of the scheme is 150 acres and the expenditure so far incurred is Rs.3.66 lakhs only against the estimated amount of Rs.4.44 lakhs. The scheme is likely to be completed in 1969-70. The scheme would benefit the area lying on both the banks of the Mahur river and the length of canal in the left bank would be 1,000 ft. and that on the right bank 4,800 ft.

Hajadisha Irrigation Scheme : Hajadisha irrigation scheme in N.C. Hills is a flow type irrigation scheme. Water is being tapped from a perennial hill stream named Digornalla. The site of the scheme is approximately 45 kms. from Maibong Rly. Station and can be approached by jeepable road.

The benefited area of the scheme will be 700 acres and the expenditure to be incurred in completing the scheme is estimated at Rs. 3.08 lakhs. It is to be completed in 1969-70. Length of canal will be 7.16 kms. The people of the adjoining villages has started reclaiming areas and the demand for supply of water is expected to be increased considerably on completion of the scheme.

Khejurbond Lift Irrigation Scheme : This is a lift irrigation scheme. Water is lifted from the Mahur river by double staging lifting system. Three nos. of engines and pumps are operating in each stage with suction pipes of 6" dia. and delivery pipe is 4" dia.

The site of the scheme is about 8 kms. away from Maibong and can be approached by the P.W.D. road to Lumding. The total benefited area of the scheme will be 300 acres and the estimated expenditure to be incurred is Rs.3.59 lakhs only. The scheme is likely to be completed in 1969-70. Length of the irrigation canal is 2.55 kms.

Noblidisha Irrigation Scheme : This is a lift irrigation scheme. Water is lifted from the Langting river. The site is about 40 kms. away from Maibong and can be approached by jeepable road of the P.W.D.

The scheme commands an area of 300 acres against proposed 675 acres of commandable area. As the present lifting system of supplying water can not cope up with the full quantity of water needed, proposal for conversion of the lifting system to a gravity flow is made and accordingly survey and investigation has already been taken up. The detailed estimate is in process of preparation. The scheme requires improvements and remodelling as more areas were reclaimed by the people of the adjoining areas.

The scheme is likely to be completed in 1969-70 and an expenditure of Rs.4.46 lakhs only is estimated for this scheme. There are two nos. of canals and the total length of both of these canals is 7.2 kms.

Natunhaja Irrigation Scheme : It is a lift irrigation scheme. Water is lifted from the Langting river by lifting devices. The site of the scheme is 5 kms. away from Langting Railway Station and can be approached by jeepable road.

This scheme is likely to be completed in 1969-70. The scheme will be commanding an area of 300 acres and an expenditure amounting to Rs.2.43 lakhs only is to be incurred for its completion. Total canal length is 2.34 kms. There is a proposal to convert the scheme from lift to flow. Detailed survey and investigation of the scheme has already been completed and the detail estimate of the scheme has been prepared.

Mailu Irrigation Scheme : It is also a lift irrigation scheme. Water is lifted from the Langting river. The site can be approached by a road under this Division and is about 20 kms. away from Langting Railway Station.

The scheme is likely to be completed in 1969-70 and the expenditure for this scheme will be only Rs.6.87 lakhs. The total benefited area of the scheme is estimated to be 300 acres and the total canal length 1.86 kms. The people of the adjoining villages are reclaiming more areas and the present lifting system is not expected to be in position to cope up with the increased demand of water supply. Moreover in the absence of high tension lines in N.C. Hills, the lift irrigation schemes by diesel operated engines are very costly and there is a proposal to investigate and to study the possibility of converting the existing lift irrigation scheme to flow.

Further due to peculiar soil condition of the North Cachar Hills, the loss of water by way of percolation etc., is very high and as such limited supply of water by lift in many cases fail to meet the requirement.

Dairangibra Irrigation Scheme : This is a flow type irrigation scheme. Water is being tapped from the Dairangi river by constructing a boulder sausage weir across the river. The site of the scheme is about 45 kms. from Maibong and can be approached by P.W.D. road.

The benefited area of the scheme will be 141 acres and the expenditure to be incurred in completing the scheme will be Rs.1.18 lakhs only. The scheme is likely to be completed during the year 1972-73.

Motibra Irrigation Scheme : This is a flow type irrigation scheme. Water is being tapped from the Mahur river. The site of the scheme is about 16 kms. away from Maibong Railway Station and can be approached by Departmental road to Taragahadi.

Benefited area of the scheme will be 120 acres and will cost Rs.2.87 lakhs. The scheme is likely to be completed in 1971-72. Length of the irrigation canal is 930 kms.

Extension of the Mahur River Irrigation Scheme in Kalachand and Solikantapur area (Phase I) : This is a flow type irrigation scheme. Water is being tapped from the Mahur river by constructing a boulder sausage weir across the river.

The original scheme was completed in the year 1956-57 and since then it was functioning very effectively. But in course of time it was found that more and more new areas were reclaimed by the people and the discharge for which the scheme was made became gradually insuffi-

cient to meet the full need. As such the extension of the scheme will be taken up during the year 1971-72 with an estimated cost of Rs. 9.31 lakhs. The present benefited area is 1,500 acres. The total canal length of the scheme is 6.12. kms.

Remodelling of Mahur River Irrigation Scheme in Kalachand and Solikantapur area : This was originally a lift irrigation scheme. Water was being lifted from the Mahur river with lifting devices and it benefited an area of 300 acres. The scheme was functioning effectively.

Gradually as the local people started reclaiming more and more areas the machineries failed to cope up with the requirement of demand for supply of water.

As such to cope up with the demand, the existing lift irrigation system is converted to a flow type system. At present the scheme is benefiting an area of 700 acres. The estimated cost of the project was Rs.7,37,790.00. The canal length is 6,000m.

Manderdisha Irrigation Scheme : It is a lift irrigation scheme designed to irrigate an area of 410 acres. The project has been taken up in 1971-72. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs.8,65,423.00. The length of the canal will be 3,111 m. The purchase of machineries is in process.

Schemes under Investigation : Besides the above noted schemes, investigation for the following schemes were made and accordingly estimates were submitted to the higher authority for sanction and approval.

1. Combined Amlambra, Thaisiling Hower, Dangding Hower Irrigation Scheme.
2. Extension and Improvement of Hajadisha Irrigation Scheme.
3. Daosut Irrigation Scheme.
4. Remodelling and Extension of Mailu Irrigation Scheme.

Investigation of the following medium irrigation schemes are going on and the project report is under preparation.

1. Kopili Valley Irrigation Project.
2. Daorani Irrigation Scheme.

Protective bunds : In Karbi Anglong there is embankment on the left bank of the river Kaliani starting from Sildubi to the out-falls of the Panjan. The length of the embankment is 25,000 ft. It protects about 1,500 acres of cultivable land from flood. Its cost was Rs.1,49,290.00.

The paddy fields on the left bank of the river Jatinga near Harangajao in North Cachar Hills are protected from erosion and flood by constructing boulder sauses and boulder pitching and a small earthen embankment along the bank. The length of such protection along the bank of the river is 4,800 ft. Another protection work in North Cachar Hills is at Mahur Bazar which is situated on the right bank of the river Doiang near railway station. It was threatened by erosion. The bank is now protected by constructing boulder sauses. The length of this protected bank is 1,267 ft.

There is a great scope for exploitation of water potential as there are sufficient rivers and streams flowing through out the district. A thorough survey entailing considerable amount of money is required to estimate availability of the water potential for irrigation and power projects. The Central Water and Power Commission have already completed the survey of the river Kopili. The work on the Kopili river project has commenced recently.

(c) AGRICULTURE (INCLUDING HORTICULTURE)

(1) **Soil and crops** : The most important characteristic of the soil is its acidity. Generally on the hills which are slowly undergoing a withering process and are constantly washed down by rain, the soil is more acidic than the soil of the low lying areas. The soil in the hilly tracts has high contents of organic matter and nitrogen. It is because of the virgin nature of the soil. Particular types of soil are not known, but it is supposed to be fairly a clayloam with high percentage of organic matter and nitrogen. A red laterite soil is also not uncommon. As the soil is acidic and contains high percentage of organic matter and nitrogen, a variety of crops including paddy, sugarcane, mustard, *til*, cotton, maize etc., and fruit plants like citrus, orange, pineapple, cashew-nut, banana etc., are grown. But for want of irrigation facilities all crops can not be grown successfully. It is also to be noted that a large majority of rural families have small holdings. This is the greatest impediments to agriculturists and prevent them from making full use of even their meagre resources.

(11) **Major and subsidiary crops** : Rice is the staple food crop of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district. The other important crops in the district are mustard, sugarcane, potato, sesame, cotton, jute, ginger, vegetables etc.

Name of the crops	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66
1	2	3	4
Autumn Rice	A 11.61	15.37	15.38
	Ay 958	709	579
	P 10.98	10.75	18.77
Winter Rice	A 9.48	15.98	17.60
	Ay 988	10.44	1,266
	P 9.20	16.42	21.95
Spring Rice	A 0.60	0.05	0.04
	AY 1,345	784	1,053
	P 0.08	0.04	0.04
Gram	A 0.05	0.04	0.11
	Ay 504	560	560
	P 0.03	0.02	0.06
Rape & Mustard	A 1.52	2.13	2.50
	Ay 448	378	783
	P 0.68	1.64	1.97
Jute	A 0.28	0.38	0.81
	Ay 1,472	1,219	1,152
	P 2.32	2.60	5.18
Sugarcane	A 2.18	1.55	2.23
	Ay 28,020	35,196	38,631
	P 6.12	5.44	9.30
Potato	A 1.01	0.83	0.40
	Ay 4,739	4,780	2,184
	P 4.79	3.97	0.89

A : Area in Hectares.

AY : Average yield in kg. per hectare.

P. : Production in tonnes except jute, mesta, and cotton in bales of 180 kg.

Rainfall and textural peculiarities of the soil and above all the farming practices are the factors upon which the cultivation of the crops largely depends. During the raining season all the usable lands, in plains or hills, are covered with paddy. But in winter there is scarcity of water. *Rabi* crop is cultivated in small patches. Minor irrigation projects have been taken up to augment the water supply only in some

areas, whereas the large areas of the district are yet to derive the benefit from such projects. Moreover in the hilly terrain where *jhum* cultivation is practised, soil erosion poses another problem. These are only a few of the handicaps peculiar to the district preventing better utilization of land. The crop cycle of the district depends upon all these factors so much so that most of the fields practically lie fallow from December to April.

Paddy : It is the staple food crop grown extensively all over the district. It falls into three categories i.e., winter paddy, autumn paddy and summer or spring paddy. The winter paddy can be divided into *Sali* and *Bao*. *Sali* is mainly cultivated in plain areas and low tracts of the hills by transplantation. *Bao* is sown by broadcast in the month of June and July and it gets ready for harvesting by December i.e. with *Sali*. Autumn paddy consists of two types i.e. plain *Ahu* and hill *Ahu*. The plain *Ahu* is taken up in the plains from March to May and the hill *Ahu* is taken up in the hills by *jhuming* in April and May. The cultivation of spring or summer rice is of recent introduction and comprised *Boro* cultivation. The process of the cultivation in the plain areas of the district is more or less the same as practised in the neighbouring plain districts of Assam. In the hill areas of the district, the *jhum* cultivation or shifting cultivation is practised which is as follows :-

In most of the cases selection of sites for *jhum* is associated with village administration. It is usually done in December or January. The *Gaonbura* calls a meeting of the village elders and then decides which part of the land is to be cultivated in the ensuing year. This is usually the practice in well organised villages, otherwise the villagers select sites as they like in scattered places and the *jhum* never form continuous block. Then begins the cutting operation at the selected sites. The implements used in this operation are simple *daos* made of ironbar with sharp edge on one side. Such *daos* have wooden or bamboo handles. Axes are used for felling big trees. *Daos* and axes are manufactured locally by the village blacksmith or purchased from the market.

The cultivators have their early meal in the morning and start for days work. They carry with them their lunch packets which consist of rice wrapped in leaves of *jungle* plants, curry in bamboo tube and a gourd or bottle of water in case there is no river or stream in the vicinity of the *jhum* site. In cases where *jhum* sites are too far to be operated from home, temporary huts or sheds are made for night stay.

The cultivators starts reclamation of his area from the below and gradually advances upwards, cutting trees and bamboos and other living weeds and plants.

After this, a period of four to five weeks is allowed to get the felled trees, bamboos etc. dry. Then a day is fixed for burning. This is usually done in March or April. On the appointed day, all the villagers assemble in *jhum* ground and set fire to their *jhums* at noon when the heat of the sun is at its peak to ensure thorough burning. It is interesting to watch the *jhums* that burn with tremendous intensity of fire producing vast clouds of smoke. After the burning of *jhums*, the sky becomes ladden with clouds and rain usually falls.

Some logs, woods, bamboos etc., that remain unburnt are collected and reburnt. Boundaries of individual plot is demarcated and each villager constructs a *jhum* house within his *jhum* land. It is a resting camp. In cases where *jhum* lands are too far for a cultivator to come and return home daily it also serves as a temporary settlement for the season.

As a rule, mixed cultivation is followed i.e. many crops are cultivated in the same *jhum* lands in the same year. Sowing of paddy is usually done by dibbling. Here a person hoes with a small country hoe which he holds in his right hand and drops the seeds which he holds in his left hand. The hoeing is spontaneously followed by dropping of seeds. In some cases holes are made with the help of a pointed stick. The pointed end of the stick is driven into the soil and seeds are dropped into the holes thus made.

Sowing of paddy is also done by broadcasting. For this soil is loosened and big clods are broken and pulverized. A condition of good tilth is brought about. Paddy seeds are then broadcast. This method has got its disadvantage also. Rain water easily carry away the soil nutrients from such pulverized soils and it becomes extremely difficult to regain the fertility. The land thus cultivated turns into pasture and not into forest.

Sowing of paddy in the case of *Ahu* is done in the months of March—April but hill *Sali* paddy is sown in the months of April—June. The Kacharis in North Cachar Hills, sometimes, follow a slightly different way of cultivation. In the first year they grow cash crops like cotton, sesamum, ginger, chilli etc. In the second year only they cultivate paddy and other cereal crops such as millets *Jowar* etc. Maize is also grown by dibbling.

Seeds of cotton, sesamum, chillies, mustard, millets *Jowar* etc., are sown broadcast. Sometimes chillies are raised in nursery and seedlings are transplanted. The above seeds are sown at the beginning of monsoon i.e. during the month of April-June. In *jhums* some vegetables such as cucumber, pumpkin, bittergourd, snakegourd watermelon, pigeon pea, soyabean, cowpea are also cultivated. Seeds of these plants are sown by dibbling. Some condiments like mallow, *pudina* etc., are sometimes raised around the *jhum* house.

The country hoes are used in dibbling. Bags are used for carrying seeds while sowing. Sometimes baskets are also used. The sowing operation is usually associated with social activity. Appropriate songs are composed for this occasion and beating of drums lead the members to dig the soil and drop the seeds in accordance with the rhythm of songs. Sowing starts from the bottom of the *jhum* and gradually advances upwards till it is finished at the top.

As the *jhum* thus reclaimed newly from *jungle* has got very fertile soil, weeds grow very quickly. Weeding is done at least three times in a year. The same country hoe is the most common implement used for this operation. The weeds are removed and collected in bundles and kept in spaces between the crops. Wherever logs or stumps are met with, the bundles of weeds are kept over them. This ensures total de-composition of the weeds. The first and the second weeding are thoroughly done. The third one is not so thorough as by this time the paddy comes to the flowering stage.

As *jhum* is usually located at the heart of the *jungles*, protection of the crops is always a difficult job. It requires sharp vigilance and alertness on the part of the cultivators. Apart from insects, pests and diseases, which the cultivator thinks are just beyond his control, denizens of the *jungles* such as wild pigs, rats, monkeys, elephants, birds etc., are to be prevented from doing harm to the crops.

The protection measures include shooting, trapping, frightening, arrowing etc. Wild pigs are shot with guns by watching night and day. Sometimes, the border of *jhum* is fenced with bamboo splits fixed to the ground at both ends in a bending fashion. This is to frighten the beasts from entering *jhum*.

In another form a nominal fence is made by placing down bamboos and trees along the border of the *jhum* and locating traps at intervals. Such trap consists of a springy tree shoot whose top portion is cut off and a rope one end of which is tied to the top of the springy tree—shoot is knitted at the other end in such a way as to fasten at the leg of the prey when the springy tree shoot is suddenly released from its load. The springy tree shoot is bent down when the knitted end of the rope is brought to a hole in the earth which is purposely made and where it is fixed in a trigger mechanism. When a beast tramples with its leg on this hole, the trap all on a sudden goes off binding the animals leg around with the rope. The beast then could be caught and killed.

In case of wild elephants, the problem is too big for the cultivator and the devastation it causes to the crops is appalling. Those who happen to visit the interior regions of the Karbi Anglong will see the *machan* huts so commonly met with. They are constructed on the branches of big and tall trees to serve as watch—towers to see the movements of the wild elephants and to drive out them by beating drums, blowing horns, and lighting torches etc. Sometimes village cultivators made bon-fire in their *jhums* especially at night if they know that elephants are nearby. They also resort to blank firing so that elephants on hearing the sound might flee away.

As to the monkeys they are very clever and as such the traps have to be made more tactfully. The usual way is to erect a bamboo pole in a slanting way. A hill slope presents a convenient site for this. The bamboo pole is so cut around at certain height above the ground as just to sustain the weight. The cut is to be wrapped around with paddy hays or straws so that the monkey may not notice it. At the top of the pole some clusters of french beans, paddy ears, maize spikes or the like are kept as a bait. On the ground just below the portion of the pole above the cut, sharp arrows made of bamboo splits are vertically fixed leaving small spaces between them. The arrows are covered with a thin layer of paddy straw just to hide them from sight. As the monkey climbs the pole to get the bait, the pole will break up abruptly at the cut dropping the monkey over the arrows. The monkey by then will get itself pierced with the arrows and killed.

The rats, above all pests are the most menacing and to control them is difficult. A log trap is the most common form of control measure. For this a fence is constructed and gates are opened here and

there. The log traps are located in these gates. One end of the log is rested on the ground and the other end is hung in suspension by means of a string that passes over a horizontal beam which is above the log. One end of the string being tied to the log has its other end taken down to the ground and fitted in the same trigger mechanism which supports a miniature culvert. The rat passing through the gate will walk over the miniature culvert and will weight it down. This will result in the quick and sudden release of the trigger and the log will all on a sudden fall on the prey.

Another rat trap consists of a railed bamboo split having a triangular frame towards the foot and a string of fibre or thread tied to it in the form of a bow. A lower portion of the string is taken around inside a triangular frame and fitted by means of a trigger. When trapping is done, the pointed foot of the trap is driven into the ground in order to keep the trap erect, adjustment is made in such a way that the track of the rays passes through the triangular frame. On entering this frame, the rat will unknowingly disclutch the bearing of the trigger and get entrapped.

Harvesting in the case of *Ahu* paddy is done in autumn i.e., in August and September. But in the case of hill *Sali* paddy the time is November and December. Two accessories are needed for this operation. One is a basket and the other is a sickle. Harvesting can be done in two ways (a) by top (bunch) harvesting, as they call it and (b) by stem harvesting.

In top (bunch) harvesting the basket is carried by a person on his back while cutting the paddy ears which are put into the basket by the left hand. He goes on cutting and putting the paddy ears into the basket until the basket becomes full. An extra basket having bigger capacity is kept by the side. The paddy ears thus cut are collected and accumulated in the big basket, this big basket is usually filled only after two or three pourings. When more than one person harvests together, pouring is done at a time. After each pouring the paddy ears inside the big basket are trampled with and pressed down so as to reduce the volume and thus ensure more accommodation. The big basket when full is carried by one person who is usually a male, to the *jhum* house where all the ears are to be stored until thrashing.

In stem harvesting, the paddy is cut across the stem about 1-1½ feet below the top of the ears. These are collected in bundles and left in the field for half a day or so. This is done so because after keeping

the ears under the sun for some time the grains can be separated very easily. Then a person moves in the field with a basket. He separates the grain by lashing the ears of paddy inside the basket. The grains are stored in the *jhum* house.

But the Karbis in the Karbi Anglong sometimes do not separate the grain in this way. They rather collect the bundles and arrange them with their ears inward over a thrashing yard in a tall heap. These are later on thrashed by lashing the ears of the paddy on the yard and the grains are collected and stored in the *jhum* house.

If reaping is done by flower (bunch) harvesting, the paddy ears in the *jhum* house have to be thrashed. This is what a proud cultivator wants to do with pomp and enthusiasm. A day is fixed for it. Neighbours including children are invited. Some domestic animals like pigs, chickens or goats are killed and a feast is prepared and served at the *jhum* house. Prior to that the owner has to keep his thrashing yard ready. A portion of the ground just in front of the *jhum* house is leveled. This may be simply smeared with cowdung and water slur and used for thrashing. But in most cases in the hills a floor made of plaited bamboo is used. For this a layer of paddy straw about 1-2 inches thick is spread over the ground. Leaves of canna or plantain are then placed over this and a covering with bamboo plait is then placed. This floor is usually made rectangular. Along the border a beam of bamboo is tied on to the stands for resting hands at about ¾ feet above the ground. The men stand along the border in a row and rest their hands on the beam. At the foot of the first man of the row just in front of the *jhum* house sits a girl or lady to make a ball of paddy ears which are thrown out from inside. She now passes the ball to the feet of the man standing next to her and without waiting for long she just makes another ball and then passes it on the feet of the man. The man in his turn passes the balls one after another to the man who stands next to him. In this way there is a chain of balls passing from man to man and getting trampled. Another girl or lady sits at the end of the row. She collects the balls that have passed through all men in the row unloosens them and drops the grains on the floor and throws away the straws. Some other person will be there to clean the grains by fanning the heap of grains with cloths or sieves.

There is another method of thrashing which is also in common practice. Here a *machan* is constructed over the thrashing floor at a height of about 10/15 feet in front of the *jhum* house. The floor or the

machan has sieve holes which will allow the grains to pass through but not the straws. A ladder is constructed between the *jhum* house and the *machan* so as to enable a man to carry the paddy ears from inside the *jhum* house and pass them on to the *machan*. A sufficient quantity of the paddy ears is poured into the *machan* at a time. Two or more persons jump on it to trample on them. The grains pass through the sieve holes of the *machan* and fall on the floor. When the grains have fallen apart completely the straws are thrown out and new ears are taken in. This method has the advantage that the grains fall from a certain height and as such the chaffy ones are blown away by the wind. The grains collected are only those which are plumpy.

A celebration is sometimes held by certain growers to mark the harvest home. A brisk preparation takes place, enough quantity of country beer is stocked. He invites his relatives and kins, even from other distant villages. On the fixed date, he slaughters domestic animals and prepares a feast. His neighbours and all the invitees are entertained.

In the plains *Sali* paddy or transplanted winter rice is first sown in seed-beds or nurseries (*Kothiatoli*) near the homestead or in the field. The land is prepared in April or May and puddled by 3 to 4 ploughings and carefully manured with cow-dung and composts. The proportion borne by the seedling beds to the area under transplanted rice varies from 4 to 10%. This is due to the fact that in poor fields close transplanting a span apart (*bigutiya*) is necessary. In ordinary good land the seedlings are usually a cubit apart (*hatiya*), while in exceptionally good soil they are sometimes placed at the width of a fishing basket apart (*pala chabiya*), nearly 20". The seed which has been selected from the largest ears of the previous years crop, is sunk in water for two or three days and then lifted up and kept dry for two days duly covered and allowed to germinate, and then the germinated seeds are sown broad-cast over the bed in the puddled field. It comes up a rich emerald green and at the beginning of summer these patches of the brightest green herbage are a striking feature in the rural landscape. In the meanwhile the fields are made ready for the transplantation of the seedlings. The male members start ploughing as soon as the soil is softened by the spring rain and repeats the process from four to eight times till he has reduced the land to a rich puddle of mud. After the third ploughing the field is harrowed, the small bunds a few inches high, intended to retain the water are repaired and if the fields adjoin the road or the village site they are fenced in with split bamboo. When the seedlings are about six to seven weeks old they are taken from the

nursery bed and carried in large bundles (*akhi*) to the field. Here they are planted out in handfuls (*muthi*) each of which contains six or eight plants. It is usually the practice to steep the young plants in water for a day or two before they are planted out and unless they are weak and stunted, the tops are cut off at the times of transplantation. The transplantation goes on from the beginning of July to the end of September, and is generally carried out by women. The work is of a most arduous description, and involves stooping for hours in a field of liquid mud, under the rays of the burning tropical sun. In places where the transplanting is feared to be delayed either due to drought or some other reason the germinated seeds are sown broadcast on the field. Before the end of the rain the crop is fully grown, though the ears are still empty, but by the middle of October, they begin to fill and the field turns to a rich green and then achieve the flowering age. From the middle of November to the middle of January harvesting takes place. Women grasp a handful of the ripe ears of corn and cut them off about eight inches below the ears. These handfuls (*muthis*) are tied up with a piece of straw and left in the field for a few days to dry. When the grain is ready to be transported to the granary or thrashing floor, the *muthis* are made in larger sheaves. Six to eight *muthis* form a *thor* or *jhap*, and five or six *thors* a *dangari*. A *dangari* is then affixed to either end of a sharp pointed bamboo called '*birva*' and the load which is called a '*bhar*' carried right to the homestead by the men.

The different kinds of *Sali* paddy fall under two main divisions, *lahi* and *bar*. *Lahi* ripens earlier than *bar*, and though the grain is of a finer quality, the yield is appreciably less. It is planted on the field which are not usually effected by flood. Altogether there are said to be not less than 74 different varieties of *Sali dhan* in the district amongst which the varieties recommended by Agriculture Department for better yielding are mainly (1) *Prasadbhog*, (2) *Swarnsali*, (3) *Andrew sali* and (4) *Laudumra*.

Ahu is grown in hills by the people in the method of *jhuming* or shifting cultivation. *Ahu* seeds are sown in the month of April and May. In the dry terraces also *Ahu* is grown in the same season. *Ahu* is also occasionally transplanted, the system of cultivation employed being substantially the same as that in force for *Sali*. Transplanted *Ahu* is generally grown on irrigated land. The crop ripens earlier than *Sali* and thus gives a quick return on the labour expended on its production.

The Japanese method is a better or improved method of cultivation, the aim and object of which is to increase production in small areas.

This method was introduced in the district from 1954-55. The main features are raising of healthy seedlings, line transplanting and application of fertilizers. The advantage is less quantity of seeds, easier inter-cultural operation. But despite this, it has not been able to attract cultivators in large numbers in view of the fact that the process is somewhat labourious. The Department has, therefore, been conducting demonstrations in demonstration centres in order to popularise this system of cultivation. The highest yield obtained by this method during 1960-61 was 99 *mds.* per acre.

Maize : Next to paddy, maize is an important food crop of the district. For some part of the year, the local inhabitants and immigrant Napaies depend on maize grains for their food supply. It is mostly cultivated in *jhum* though some people cultivate in homestead also. The corns after harvest are shelled and stored. The grains are made into flour or fried and eaten. Until recently maize was solely grown for home consumption but at present sufficient quantity of it is exported out side the district. Maize covered an area of 3,237 hectares in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district in 1966-67 and produced 1,780 tonnes of grains.

Lesser Millet : There are 3 or 4 kinds of millets grown by the Karbis to supplement their paddy deficiency. It forms a minor place in the cropping mixture, but it is gaining more and more importance due to their easy cultivation and poor conditions under which these successfully grow. The area covered by them was 60 hectares in the district in 1966-67 and produced 34 tonnes of grains.

Wheat : The cultivation of wheat is a recent introduction to the district and it covered an area of 24 hectares only with a yield of 13 tonnes in 1966-67.

Deccan Hemp or Mestapat : Next to cereals this crop form an important item in the dietary of the hill people as use of the pulses is almost unknown amongst them. In the cropping mixtures it invariably gets a place in smaller or greater proportion. Leaves, young shoots and fruits are eaten, cooked as pot—herbs and included in their daily meals. No other use of the plant except those mentioned, is made of. At the end of the crop's life, plants are cleared out along with other stubbles for next year's sowings.

Tur (*Arhar*) : It is neither a cash crop nor a food crop of the Karbis. It is cultivated only for its plants to be used as lac hosts. *Arhar*

being the most important lac hosts, it is grown very widely in the *jhum* areas. The crop is sown alongwith other crops in March-April and allowed to grow till September/October when they are inoculated with brood lac. Plants used as lac hosts do not fructs satisfactorily. Besides, the variety suitable for and grown as lac host does not possess good edible quality. Even if lac host bears fruits and seeds, scarcely any attempt is made to gather the pods. The Karbis do not even like to eat this variety of *Arhar* not to speak of finding any market for its sale. No attempt is also made to grow some edible varieties which may serve dual purpose i.e., plants as lac hosts and seeds for consumption because the impression is that edible varieties do not make good lac host. *Arhar* is the only mentionable leguminous crop grown in the Karbi Anglong. Now a days *Arhar* is grown in some parts of the district with interest and the area under the crop is also increasing every year. In 1966-67, *Arhar* covered an area of 275 hectares with an yield of 148 tonnes.

Rabi pulses : Pulses in the Karbi Anglong are mainly cultivated by the people other than Karbis. In the plains, of course, they have taken its cultivation in small scale. *Moong* and *Matikalai* are major series of pulses in the district. The crop is cultivated from the last part of August to the end of September. Harvesting takes place in the months of December and January. *Rabi* pulses in 1966-67, covered an area of 1,174 hectares with a production of 456 tonnes.

Gram is also cultivated but on a very small scale. During the same year it covered an area of 31 hectares.

Soyabean : Soyabean seems to be of recent introduction in the Karbi Anglong. The Nepalese settlers in and in the neighbourhood of Karbi Anglong are perhaps the agencies through whom this crop has reached the Karbis. The crop is still grown on a very small scale.

Rape and mustard : Mustard is another important cash crop of the district. It is grown well in hills as well as in plains. In the hills it is grown by *jhuming* where after the clearance of the *jungle*, the seeds are sown (broadcast) in the month of September, October and harvested in January/February. In the plain areas or in terraces also it is sown alike after proper tillage operation in the same season as in *jhum*.

The whole of the mustard finds its way into the market and there is no internal consumption whatsoever. The mustard of Karbi Anglong

is reputed for its rich oil contents. In 1966-67, it was grown over an area of 2,630 hectares in the District which produced 2,522 tonnes of rape and mustard seeds.

Castor : Castor crop is grown for dual purpose. It is not only grown in the *jhum* areas but also in and around the homesteads. It is very thinly dibbled in the *jhum* area. During the vegetation period of castor plants, leaves are plucked in small number for feeding *eri* cocoons without completely defoliating the plants. Plants are allowed to bear seeds which are gathered as they ripen at intervals of 1 to 2 weeks between the month of January and March. Large quantities of castor seeds are annually exported from the Karbi Anglong.

There are generally two varieties of castor found in the hills namely (a) Red stemmed variety with black mottled seeds and (b) White stemmed variety with yellow mottled seeds. Plants of both varieties grow into very large size as much as 20'-25' in height and seeds contain high percentage of oil. These seeds are collected in all the markets and exported outside district.

Sesamum : It is usually taken up for cultivation from June to August. The cultivation is mostly in favour with both Karbis and other tribes only because it requires minimum labour. The *jungles* are cleared in hill tracts and the seeds are simply broadcast which gives a very good yield. Some times lands are of course prepared by one to two ploughings. The crop is harvested from October to December and always a good out-turn is obtained.

Linseed also covers a small area of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district.

Cotton : Cotton is an old cash crop of Assam Hills. There are two varieties of cotton grown in the district. The large balled high growing cotton is known as *borkapah* (*Gossypium neglectum*) while the smaller balled species is termed *horukapah* (*Gossypium arboreum*). The former is sown on level ground and has comparatively small number of seeds. It can be ginned easily than the second variety. It is plucked twice and bears for three season. The *horukapah* on the other hand yield only one crop in the year.

The cotton is cultivated in *jhums*. Its seeds are sown broadcast generally in conjunction with that of the other crops such as rice, *til*, maize, chilly, mustard and melon etc. The field is weeded once or

twice and the crop ripens in November to December. Cotton requires rain when it is put into the ground to enable the seed to germinate, but afterwards it thrives best, if it gets a good deal of sun and heavy rain is liable to rot the stems. Generally the cotton is sold unginned. There is also little demand for its seed in the local markets. But there is very good foreign demand not for its spinning value but for its coarseness and low wax content of the fibre. This is not good to spin to thread but ideally suited for mixing with wool. Nearly whole of the product is exported to foreign countries. In 1966-67, cotton covered an area of 6,475 hectares and produced 2,626 bales of cotton (180 kg. each bale).

Jute : Jute is grown particularly in the Howraghat area of Karbi Anglong which is mostly inhabited by the immigrants. The cultivation of the crop is taken up from March to May. The land is well prepared with proper tillage. Usually the seeds are broadcast but now advantage of line sowing has been taken up as it requires less seed rate and less labour for interculturing operations. Improved variety of seeds have also been introduced by the Department of Agriculture which increases and yields better quality of fibre. The cultivation of this crop requires more labour than other crops, still the crop is preferred due to its easy marketability and good return.

The plants are cut in the months of July to September, stripped of their leaves, tied in bundles and left to rot in pools of water for ten to twelve days. When they are ready, a handful of stems is taken up, broken in the middle and beaten to and fro in the water till the inner part drops out and only the fibre remains. The bundle of fibre are then dried and made ready for use. It was grown over an area of 509 hectares and produced, 5,888 bales of jute in 1966-67.

Tobacco : It is cultivated as a garden crop in small patches in the months of October and November to meet their home consumption throughout the district.

Sugarcane : In Karbi Anglong sugarcane is mainly grown in Bokajan area though some patches are also found in the hills under *jhums*. North Cachar Hills also has some cultivation of it. *Khangori* and *Co 313* are the common varieties of sugarcane grown in the district, but now some other recommended varieties such as *Co 419*, *poj 2,714* are also grown. The crop is propagated from the tops of the best canes which are cut off at harvest time and kept in a shady place. One of these

tops yields on the average about five canes. Soil is prepared well by ploughing and hoeing till it is reduced to a fine tilth and the tops are planted in inches between April and June. The field is properly fenced with bamboo to protect the canes from stray cattle and Jackals. While the crop is growing, it is hoed and weeded from time to time. The larch from the ridges is heaped about the roots to strengthen their hold with the soil and this process is continued until the relative portions of the ridge and trench are reversed and the canes stand up on ridges with the trenches in between. Time of harvest differs according to the variety of sugarcane commencing from January to April. The total area under sugarcane was 1,902 hectares in the district in 1966-67. Almost whole of the sugarcane from Karbi Anglong is sent to sugar mill at Dergaon in Sibsagar District.

Chillies : The chillies are grown in the homesteads sufficiently primarily for home consumption. The surplus produce finds its way into the market though trade in this commodity is not worth mentioning. The varieties grown are good with regard to pungency and are big and attractive in size.

Potato : The cultivation of this crop is done throughout the district but not on a large scale. The preparing of land for sowing starts from September to November with other vegetables. The small size potato is preferred for seed and sown in time. Earthening operation are taken up after three to four weeks and repeated again after about six weeks. The crop is harvested in the months of January and February. The estimated yield of potato is 30 to 40 mds. per acres. Potatoes are imported from the neighbouring districts as the local production is not sufficient to meet the requirements.

Sweet potato : Raw tubers of sweet potato though very much liked by the Karbis, it has to be imported into the hills from neighbouring plains. The quantity they produce is not enough to meet the requirements in their long travels through the forests and jungles. Going out on some business, sweet potato is invariably carried in the bags to sustain them during the journey. In spite of its being such an important article of diet it is still grown on a small scale and people are dependent on outside supply. Nepalese settlers grow this crop in abundance and abandoned *jhum* areas are generally utilised for this purpose.

Horticulture crops : The major horticulture crops grown in the district are Banana, Orange, Pear, Arecanut, Pineapple, Coconut etc.

and minor crops are Guava, Lemons, Papaya, Litchi, Jackfruits, Mango, and the like.

Banana : The varieties of banana grown in the district are *Chenichampa*, *Malbhog*, *Jahaji*, *Athia* and other indigenous types. The *Jahaji*, *Chenichampa*, and *Malbhog* are small trees whose fruits are much appreciated by all. The *Athia* plantain is generally grown near the home—steads where it can obtain a plentiful supply of manure but the finer varieties are planted at a little distance to protect them from earth worms whose attack they are hardly strong enough to resist. Sandy soil and heavy clay check the growth of the plant and anything in the shape of water logging is most injurious. The Banana suckers are generally planted in June and July and are manured with cowdung and sweepings and ashes. Young saplings take from thirteen to eighteen months to mature and from flowers take two to three months to mature into a fruit. The plantain tree serves many purposes in addition to that of a fruit purveyor. The flower is much esteemed as a vegetable, the leaves serve as plates and the trunks are used for decorative purposes on occasions of ceremony and as food for elephants. An alkaline solution distilled from sheaths and corn is sometimes used in place of salt. For this purpose, portions of the tree are sliced, dried and reduced to ashes. The ashes are placed in an earthen pot in which there are several holes lightly plugged with straws. Water is then poured over, which dissolve the alkaline and trickles the hole into the receiver below. The resulting product which is known as *Kharpani* is used as spice, as a hair wash and as a mordant with certain dyer.

Banana is grown in most houses in the district. It is also cultivated as a major crop in the private gardens. The areas of Bokajan, Lumbajan, Rongkhang in Karbi Anglong are ideally suited for its cultivation. In North Cachar Hills it is mostly concentrated in Harangajao area but due to lack of transportation and marketing facilities, the fruits are not properly disposed of.

Pineapple : It is an important fruit crop of North Cachar Hills. Area under pineapple crop is about 810 hectares which alone covers 60% of the total fruit growing area of North Cachar Hills. The average yield is said to be 22 mt. per hectare. Total production roughly comes to 17,800mt. of which about 450 mt. is exported outside the district. Pineapple growing areas in North Cachar Hills are Jantinga, Laikul, Laisong, Harangajao and Hatikholi and Hmarthongmai. No estimate of its production and acreage in Karbi Anglong is available but its cultivation

is largely concentrated in the Nilip and Bokajan areas. It is also grown in and around Diphu town. It is grown from its suckers which are planted in hill slopes or terraces from March to May. Both kew and green varieties are grown here.

Orange : Next to pineapple, comes the oranges which occupy about 8% of the total area under horticulture in North Cachar Hills. Its cultivation is mostly located at Laikul, Mahur and Jatinga areas of the Barail range covering its eastern and southern portion having altitudes between 610 m. to 1,067 m. The average yield is about 5mt. per hectare. More than fifty per cent of the crop is exported outside the district mainly by rail heads. It is also grown widely in Karbi Anglong but its main concentration is in the Nilip area. It requires humid climate with annual rainfall of 30" inch. It thrives well in deep, well drained soil. Its saplings are generally planted on hill slopes. The oranges are harvested from November to January. Cultural practices are done by cutting down dead and old branches of the trees and removing the weeds from the base of the tree. But this important fruit crop is facing gradual decrease due to the occurrence of the disease of all India nature for which no remedy to check the disease has yet been evolved. The research is going on to find out the cause of the disease.

Pears : It grows at elevations of 400 ft. and requires deep and warm soil retentive of moisture. It can grow in poor and marginal soils also. The cultivation of pear is mostly concentrated in the Socheng area and partially under Amri Community Development Block. It is generally cultivated in hill slopes under rainfed conditions. Picking up of fruit at the right stage of maturity is of paramount importance. If picked in a very ripe condition, it deteriorates quickly and if picked raw and sent to the market, it shrivels up. The best time for picking is when the fruit is hard and green but mature. Due to lack of transportation there is practically no market for this fruit.

Cocoanut : Its cultivation is mostly concentrated in the plains area. It is not grown as a garden crop but cultivated in homesteads. It is doing well and there is prospect for more cultivation.

Betelnut : Cultivation of betelnut is localised one. It is grown in low altitude hills and plains and in and around homesteads. The production of betelnut in the district is very insignificant to meet the requirements and considerable quantities of it have to be imported from

outside. Besides, jackfruit, mango, papaya, guava, plum, lemons etc., are also grown in small quantities in the district. Apple cultivation has also been cultured in North Cachar Hills in areas having an altitude of 1,219m and above. Some varieties of apple grafts with low chilling requirements from Kulu Valley are planted in areas having altitudes of 762m, 914m, 1,067m, 1,219m. and above.

Tea : The cultivation of tea is confined only to Karbi Anglong. Tee quality of tea produced is inferior, nevertheless, its contribution to the district economy is fairly significant. It also provides employment to a number of people. The process of cultivation and manufacturing tea is the same as practised in the other districts of Assam.

III Progress of Scientific Agriculture : Agricultural Implements : In hill areas of the district, agricultural operations is carried on with a very few and simple implements. Most important of these implements are *dao*, axe, hoe, spade and scythe. *Daos* mainly used for cutting operation, are made of iron bar with sharp edge on one side. Such *daos* have wooden and bamboo handles. Sometimes axes are also used for felling big trees. Hoes are used for sowing paddy and scythe used for harvesting. All these implements are generally, locally manufactured by the village blacksmith or purchased from the local market.

In the plains *desi* plough, harrow, hoe, scythe are used. *Desi* plough is made of hard wood. It consists of 3 parts (a) the handle and body which are usually all in one piece, (b) the pole which joins the plough at the junction of the handle and the body and (c) the yoke which is merely a piece of wood or bamboo, fastened by rope at the right angles to the pole with pags affixed to it to keep it from sliding from the neck of the bullock. In the front end of the body a piece of iron is fastened which is known as *phal*. These ploughs are drawn by bullocks. Generally such ploughs can plough down the soil to a depth of 3"-4" if the soil is not so hard. Harrow (*moi*) is a bamboo ladder about 8 feet in length and 1½ in breadth at the centre where a man can stand as it is drawn across the field by bullocks or buffaloes. It is used to harrow up or level the field and also to crush the clods. Its place is sometimes taken by a plain log of wood. Hoes (*kodals*) are used to trim the embankments (*alis*) which help to retain the water. Sickles (*kachi*) with which the paddy is reaped have also to be purchased.

The ordinary implement used for husking grain is *dheki*, a long beam with a pestle affixed at the end, which is supported by two posts at about two-third of the length from the head. The shorter end is pressed by the foot and the pestle is thus raised into a small mortar buried in the ground in which the grain is placed. The *dheki* is the implement ordinarily employed by the plains people to husk their rice or pulse, but the hill tribes generally used a large wooden mortar (*ural*) and a pestle (*mari*). All these implements are generally made at home.

Agricultural Department has introduced some new and improved types of implements such as moulded board and subash plough, hand hoe, rake, *khurpi*, spade, sickle, drill machine, weeder etc. These implements are gradually gaining popularity among the cultivators. The following table shows the use of agriculture machineries and implements in United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district during the year 1956.²

Ploughs wooden	..	..	.	12,405
Iron	..	..	..	—
Carts	..	..	..	1,246
Sugarcane Crushers worked by power				1
Sugarcane Crushers Worked by bullocks				144
Oil engines with pumps for				
Irrigation	.	..	..	1
Electric pumps for irrigation		..		—
Tractors Govt.	.	..	..	—
Tractors Private	..	..	..	2

Seeds and Manures : Generally growers used their own local varieties of seeds collected at the time of the harvest for raising their crops and as a result the outturn is not satisfactory in most of the cases mainly in the plain areas of the district. But now the Agriculture Department has introduced some improved varieties of seeds which are getting popular in the plain areas, for instance, *Prasadbhog*, *Laudumra* and *Handique sali* in respect of winter paddy and *Kaimurali*, *Rangadaria* and *Kasalath* amongst *Ahu* paddy.

Rotation of crop is not practised by the ordinary cultivators but they adopt the process of mix cropping. From their long experiences,

they have found out the suitability of different crop mixtures under different physical and topographical condition of soil, to avoid total or partial failure. A few general cropping mixture followed by them are given below.

No. 1	Paddy	..	..	..	..	<i>Maigom.</i>
	<i>Arhar</i>					
	Castor					
	<i>Til</i>					
	Millet.					
	Maize					
No. 2	Paddy	..	..	..	..	<i>Ahu</i>
	Cotton	..	..	..	..	<i>Borkapah</i>
	<i>Til</i>					
	Mestapat					
No. 3	Paddy	..	..	..	..	<i>Ahu</i>
	Cotton	..	..	..	..	<i>Sorukapah</i>
No. 4	Cotton	..	..	..	..	<i>Sorukapah</i>
	<i>Til</i>					

Soyabean, chillies, sweet potato, gourds and such other miscellaneous minor food crops which cultivators intend to raise, are inter-dibbled in the fields in small numbers.

The district is rich in green matters and also because of the practice of shifting cultivation the cultivators generally get virgin and fertile soil and use of inorganic manures is very limited. Efforts are being made to popularise these inorganic fertilizers such as Ammonium Sulphate, Super Phosphate, Urea and Muriate of Potash through practical demonstrations.

Rural compost though easy to prepare is used only in the plain areas of the district and in the hill areas, its use is very rare.

Agricultural disease and pests : As the district is full of *jungles*, crops are attacked by wild animals, pests and disease. The animals which do most injury to the crops are pigs, elephants and monkeys. Elephants have disastrous traces of their presence, but luckily do not remain in locality.

Serious damage is sometimes done by insects which are called *keonkata*, *tupalia*, *gandhi* (*Leptorisa acuta*), *charha* (*Hispa acuesceus*), semi-loopier and hairy caterpillar. The *gandhi* is a small pug which injures the rice

² Statistical Abstract of Assam, 1960-61. p. 86.

plant by feeding on the stems and sucking all the sap from the young grains. It is most prevalent in July and August and is particularly in evidence during a spell of hot dry weather. High wind and rain drive it back into the *jungle*, and good results are obtained by lighting fires of vegetables refuse to wind ward direction. Another remedy is to collect the insects by smearing a winnowing fan with some glutinous substance and brushing it over the ears of grain, when many of the bugs will be found adhering to the fan. This remedy should be tried in the morning or late afternoon, as the insects do not feed in the heat of the day. The *Charha* is tiny beetle, which eats away the outer surface of the leaves and stalks, and thus affects outturn of the crops. It attacks the young plants in the nursery and can most easily be destroyed by spraying. Smoking the fields also produces good results. But must be continued for some days or the beetles will return.

The control measures of the pests have been taken up by the Department of Agriculture in large scale. Pesticides are distributed to the growers when needed at 50% concession. The following table gives the details of important pests and diseases and their control measures.

Important pests and diseases of Assam and their control.

Crops	Pests and Diseases	Control Measures.
1	2	3
Rice	Brown Spot	Treat the seeds with Agrosan G. No @ 3 gm. per 1 kg. of seed, or immerse the seeds in solution of 1 gm. of Ceresan in litre of water for 12 hours and dry them in shade.
	Blast	Spray 5 : 5 : 50 Bordeaux Mixture or spray 0.4% solution of Perenox, Shell Copper, Cupravit.
	Foot Rot and Elongation.	Treat the seeds as in the case of Brown Spot; uproot and destroy the affected plants.
	Stem Rot	Destroy stubble, allow water to drain out from the field to cake the soil and treat with any copper oxychloride fungicide, viz. Fytolan, Blitox, Copessan etc.

Crops	Pests and Diseases	Control Measures
1	2	3
	Bunt and False Smut, Ufra	Uproot and destroy the affected plants. Burn affected plants, treat the seeds in hot water for 10 minutes in 140 F.
	Case Worm and Gally fly.	(1) Dust 10% B.H.C. or (2) Spray Endrin or Diazinon. @10 c.c in 4.5 litres of water 3 times @40-50 gallons per acre if there is incidence.
	Grasshoppers and Jassids.	Dust 10% B.H.C. or 2% Aldri.
	Leaf Roller, } Army Worms }	Dust 5% B.H.C.
	Mealy Bug	Dust 10% B.H.C. or spray Parathion 0.05%
	Swarming Caterpillar, Rice-Bug Rice-Hispa.	(1) Spray Endrin 20E.C or Diazinon. @ 10 c.c in 4.5 litres of water. @ 40-50 gallons 3 times. (2) Dust 10% B.H.C at 7 Kgs. per acre.
	Stem Borer	(1) Dip treat the seedling blades on 50% (W.P) D.D.T @ 1 lb in 25-28 gallons of water before transplanting. (2) Spray the crop with Endrin or Diazinon 3 times.

Crops	Pests and Diseases	Control Measures
1	2	3
Sugarcane	Termites and Red Ants.	Dust 5% Aldrin and incorporate it into the soil @ 25 Kg. per hectare or 10 Kg. per acre.
	Stem Borer, Early Shoot Borer and Top Shoot Borer.	Spray Phosphamidon 3 times @ 20 c.c in 100 litres of water for the 1st spray and 30 c.c in 100 litres of water for the 2nd and the 3rd sprays. or Spray Endrin 20 E.C thrice @ 2.50 Kg. in 675 litres of water for the 1st spray, 3.75 Kgs. in 870 litres of water for the 2nd spray and the 3rd sprays per hectare. or Spray Guesarol 550 or Hexidole 950-3.50 Kg. in 570 litres of water per hectare. Repeat twice at 15 days interval upto 3 months of the crop.
	Mealy Bug and White Fly.	Spray Basudin 20 @ 1 Kg. in 660 litres of water per hectare.
	Leaf Hopper	Spray 0.25% B.H.C or dust 10% B.H.C
	White Borer	Spray 0.4-0.5% B.H.C
	Red-rot	Plant disease-free seeds, avoid water stagnation, uproot and destroy the affected plants. For leaf infection spray 0.5% Copper Oxychloride or 0.4% Dithane Z-78.
	Leaf Spot	Manure the crop, adopt improved cultural practices and irrigate when necessary and spray 0.5% copper fungicide when infection is observed.

Crops	Pests and Diseases	Control Measure.
1	2	3
Maize	Mosaic, Smut and Top-Rot	Root out the affected canes and destroy them by burning, plant disease free seeds.
	Wilt and Collar-Rot	Plant healthy seeds, adopt crop rotation and avoid ratooning.
	Leaf spot and Blight	Use disease-resistant varieties, Practise crop rotation.
	Aphis	Spray Nicotine Sulphate.
Potato	Borer	Spray Endrin or Diazinon or D.D.T. (50%).
	Early and Late Blight	Spray B.M. or any copper fungicide viz., Captan 406. Dithane Z-78, Shell Copper or Fytolan or Blitox @ 2-4 lbs. in 100 gallons or water at an interval of 15 days. Use disease-free seeds.
	Brown-Rot	Plant disease-free tubers.
	Scab	Dip tubers in hot Formalin, 1 part in 100 parts of water for 4 minutes in 122°F. or Hydro-chloric Acid before planting.
	Leaf Roll and Mosaic	Plant disease-free tubers.
	Tuber Moth	Dust 5% B.H.C.
	Greasy Surface	Dust 5% B.H.C at 7 Kgs per acre
	Caterpillar Cut Worm	Spray Aldrex 30 E.C.

Crops	Pests and Diseases	Control Measures
1	2	3
Tobacco	Wilt	Disinfect the seed-bed.
	Caterpillar and Thrips	Dust 5% B.H.C.
Cruciferous : Cabbage,	Black-Rot	Treat the seed with Mercuric Chloride (1 in 1000) for 30 minutes in 122°F.
Cauliflower, Knol-Nhol, Turnips etc.	Damping off	Spray 2: 2: 50 B.M. or drench seed-bed with Streptocycline or Ceresan.
	Club Root	Sterilize seed-bed with Formalin (1:50) or Mercuric Chloride (1:2000) @ 2 gallons per sq. yard. Lime the field @ 1500-2000 lbs. per acre. Treat the plants with 1:2000 Mercuric Chloride @ $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. per acre.
	White Rust	Practise crop rotation.
	Leaf Spot	Treat the seed with hot water for 30 minutes (122°F.) and spray 4: 4: 50B.M.
	Brown Rot	Apply 20 lbs. of Borax per acre or spray 0.3% solution of Borax.
	Aphids	Spray 40% Nicotine Sulphate (5 to 8 oz. in 50 gallons of water).
	Caterpillar, Trips, Jassids, Semi, Looper, Butterfly.	Spray Malathion—I 5 C.C in 1 litre of water. Dust 5% B.H.C.
	Painted Bug	Spray soap solution (1 lb of soft soap in 6 gallons of water)
	Cricket	Use Malathion dust or Aldrin 5% dust.

Crops	Pests and Diseases	Control Measures
1	2	3
Jute	Stem-Rot, Root-Rot and Seedling Blight	Treat the seeds with Agrosan G.N. or Ceresan or Flit 406, apply Lime @ 20-30 quintals per hectare, apply usual dose of Potash and follow crop rotation. Spray 0.4% Copper Oxychloride.
	Black Band	Use disease-free seeds, spray 5: 5: 50 B.M. or Blue Copper or Cuman or Blitox.
	Hairy Caterpillar	Dust 5% B.H.C or spray Endrin 20 E.C twice @ 0.8-1.1 Kg. in 445-667 litres of water.
	Mites	Dust Lime Sulphur (3.1).
	Crickets	Apply Endrin 5% at soil preparation @ 45 Kg. per hectare or spray Endrin 20 E.C and bait.
	Semi Looper	Spray 50% B.H.C (W.P) or Endrin (20 E.C.) or Thiodin.
	Downy Mildew	Spray 4:4:50B.M. or any copper fungicide.
Mustard	Leaf-Spot	Treat the seeds with hot water for 30 minutes (122°F.) and spray 4: 4: 50 B.M.
	White Rust	Practise crop rotation.
	Aphis	Spray 40% Nicotine Sulphate (5-8 oz. in 25 gallons of water) or spray Basudin 20 E.C or Malathion (50% W.P) @ 1 litre in 450 litres of water.

Crops	Pests and Diseases	Control Measures
1	2	3
	Caterpillar and Sawfly.	Dust 5% B.H.C. @ 6 Kg. per acre.
Pulses : <i>Matimah</i> and <i>Mugmah</i>	Anthracnose and Leaf-spot	Spray 4: 4: 50 B.M or Percnox or Cuprocide.
	Mosaic	Sow disease-free seeds, control insect vectors by spraying Nicotine Sulphate or Basudin or Dimecron.

Review of the activities of the Agricultural Department and other agencies : In the First Five Year Plan emphasis was laid on those schemes which had limited objective of increasing food production only. But the Second Five Year Plan aimed at attaining a balanced development of food and cash crops. Priority was given to the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds, distribution of fertilizer, creation of irrigation facilities etc. During the Third Five Year Plan attempts to put the agriculture of the district on a better scientific plan were made more intensive and at the same time more diversified. It is the objective of the Fourth Five Year Plan to increase the production of foodgrains at an average annual rate of 5 per cent in the State, to arrest the decline in production of jute by increasing the average yield rather than the area and to increase the production of wheat, oilseed, pulse, fruit and other plantation crops.

Agricultural Deptt. : The Development of Agriculture is the main function of the Agricultural Department. District Agriculture Officer is the head of the district. He is assisted by a number of officers and other staff. The following are the schemes undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in the district.

Distribution of Fertilizers : It has already been mentioned that there is a very limited use of chemical fertilizers. This may be ascribed partly to the ignorance, prejudice and partly to the limited purchasing power of the farmers. Further inadequate irrigation facilities and uncertainty of rain restricts the use of fertilizers. Undeveloped means of communication in the district is another problem. It makes difficult to supply fertilizers to the farmers, especially in the interior areas of the

district. For this reason the Agricultural Department grants transport subsidy for distribution of fertilizers.

Distribution of Improved Seeds : The principal agency for the supply of seeds is the Assam Seeds Corporation Ltd., Gauhati. The Agricultural Department purchases the seeds from the Corporation and supplies to the farmers at 50% subsidised rates.

The following is the list of Seeds Farms and Nurseries.

Sl. No.	Name of the Farm	Year of starting	Area in acres	Area under cultivation in acres.
1	2	3	4	5
In Karbi Anglong				
1.	Diphu District Seed Farm and Nursery,	1957	44	37
2.	Tarabasa Seed Farm,	1956-57	30	24
3.	Bokajan Seed Farm,	1957-58	30	25
4.	Tumpreng Seed Farm,	1957-58	30	27
5.	Kheroni Large Sized Mechanised Farm,	1968-69	3000	800
In N. C. Hills				
6.	Harangajao Seed Farm,	1959-60	30	9.52
7.	Maibong Seed Farm	1957-58	39.23	16

Agricultural tools and implements : The Agricultural Department has been trying to popularise the use of modern equipments and implements like mould board plough, weeder, seed drill, thresher, power tiller, power pumps etc., through Assam Agro-Industries Development Corporation. Cultivators are also realising the importance of modern equipments and implements in increasing the productivity of the soil.

A few farmers in the plains have taken up to mechanised farming but in a greater part of area where shifting cultivation is practised, modern implements can not be of much use unless cultivation is converted into terracing or some improved device of cultivation is evolved.

Plant protection measures : The plant protection measure is an important task to save the existing crops. It is carried out through out the district under different manner of operation to combat the attacks of insects, pests and diseases. Prophylactic measures have been taken up to save crop from the probable attack of diseases, insects and pests. The farmers are becoming conscious of these measures and the demand for plant protective chemicals and equipments etc., is increasing gradually. Sprayers, dusters, pesticides, weedicides and fungicides are made available to farmers by the Department of Agriculture at the 50% subsidy through the agency of Assam Agro-Industries Development Corporation Ltd.

Sugarcane development schemes : Procurement and supply of recommended sugarcane sets, crushers at subsidised rates have been envisaged under this scheme. Demonstration plots have also been taken up in different Community Development Blocks under the scheme.

Cotton development scheme : The Hill Cotton Scheme was initiated in 1947 in Garo Hills, jointly financed by the State Government and Indian Cotton Committee. Extensive research work was taken up by setting up a Farm at Tura in Garo Hills. This scheme continued till 1961.

The present Hill Research Scheme was taken up in 1964 to follow up the work of Hill Cotton Scheme. This time the head quarters of the scheme were established at Diphu in Karbi Anglong with branches in Garo Hills and Mizo Hills. The work in Mizo Hills was stopped after the disturbances. Under the scheme one farm has been established in Karbi Anglong.

Cotton Research Farm, Diphu : This is situated just near the Diphu and covers an area of 20 acres. The whole area is utilised for conducting trials on long or short staple cotton.

Cotton Research Farm, Dillai : It has been taken up in 1970-71, because area coverage of the Diphu Farm is very small and it is found difficult to take up studies on growing long staple cotton in extensive way there.

To study the performance of long and short staple cotton in North Cachar Hills, a part of Agriculture Farm, Maibong is utilized temporarily for conducting a few trials. Besides, exploratory trials in the fields are also taken to study the performance as well as to familiarise the cultivators. A few varieties of local cotton with better qualities have been evolved. These are :-

D-46.2-1 : It is a selection from Dafala Hills (Arunachal Pradesh) cotton. The ginning percentage is found to be 46% compared to 42% of local. The yield is also comparatively higher than the local variety.

G-54-1 & G-135-49 : Both are selected from Garo Hills cotton. The ginning percentage is 47% and yield is higher than local variety.

Further a lot of local varieties have been tested and among the varieties selected for release mention may be made of M.C.U.I. Buri—147, A.C.—122, etc.

The Assam Agro-Industries Development Corporation Ltd. : The branch office of the Corporation was opened at Diphu, Karbi Anglong, on 8th July 1969 with a view to extending technical know-how to the progressive cultivators in the field of modern agriculture, to supply agricultural inputs and implements timely and at reasonable price and to facilitate repair works of agricultural equipments and machineries by establishing workshops. This branch office serves Karbi Anglong, North Cachar Hills and two States of Manipur and Nagaland. It provides agricultural inputs either directly or through government agencies like District Agricultural Officer, Block Development Officer and also through the stockists appointed by the Corporation. The Corporation also makes available agricultural equipments at subsidised rates.

Soil Conservation Department : The problem of soil erosion is very acute both in the Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills due to the extensive practice of *jhum* or shifting cultivation in hill areas. This affects the fertility of the soil greatly. The natural cover of the land is destroyed and the soil being devoid of vegetation loses its moisture bearing capacity. Monsoon rains further washes away the soil and erodes the hill slopes. This makes the river beds sited up and the rain water finding insufficient outlets, overtops the banks causing flood in the plains area. To check this soil erosion, the Soil Conservation Department have taken up some schemes both in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills.

The activities of the Soil Conservation Department started in Karbi Anglong in 1954-55 as a part of the *jhum* control division of the Forest Department with head quarters at Gauhati. In March 1959 this *jhum* control division was split into three divisions and named as Soil Conservation Division. In June, 1960, United Mikir and N. C. Hills Soil Conservation division was started at Diphu. This Division was again split into two Divisions namely Karbi Anglong Soil Conservation Division and North Cachar Hills Soil Conservation Division on 1.2.1968 with head quarters at Diphu and Haflong respectively.

Cultivation of cash crop : The people in hill areas are encouraged to grow some perennial crops on land unsuitable for regular crops. The most successful cash crops introduced by this Department so far are coffee and Black pepper. Experimental plantations of para-rubber and cashewnuts have also given good results.

Coffee is considered to be ideally suited as cash crop to the hill areas of Assam. The average yield is about 100 kg per acre and the quality of coffee produced is also considered to be of good quality. By 1970, about 110 acres of land will be covered by departmental coffee plantation in Karbi Anglong. The North Cachar Hills will have 150 acres of coffee plantation and the annual yield from these departmental plantation has been expected to be 100 kg per acre.

Black Pepper : About 10 acres in North Cachar Hills and 31 acres in Karbi Anglong is under black pepper plantation and nurseries. The nurseries have been maintained for free supply of vines to the villagers. But the results are not very encouraging as the people are not evincing keen interest in the cultivation of the black pepper.

Cashewnuts : Cashewnuts are growing well in Karbi Anglong and plantation in about 460 acres have been created by the Department. The estimated production in 1969-70 has been 6,861 kg. of cashewnuts. The cashewnuts plantation in North Cachar Hills with only 15 acres was created in 1967-68. Because of poor yield of nuts, the scheme is discontinued.

Para Rubber : The cultivation of rubber has shown very satisfactory results in the district and so far 271 acres of land in Karbi Anglong has been brought under rubber plantation by the Department.

Land Improvement : With a view to reduce shifting cultivation, the Department has taken up the works of reclamation and terracing to settle the *jhumers* to permanent suitable agricultural crops. For reclamation

usually land upto 5% slope and valley's bottom lands are taken up, terracing is done on the hills having slope of 5 to 30 per cent. In Karbi Anglong about 3,500 acres of land is likely to be reclaimed and terraced by 1971. The same in North Cachar Hills will be 1,225 acres.

Afforestation : The afforestation works are undertaken by the Soil Conservation Department in the *jhum* eroded and barren land to stop further deterioration of the soil. These lands became unfit for crop cultivation and if left as it is, severe soil erosion will cause more damage. Under the afforestation schemes such areas are protected by raising valuable plants like tea, *Khoir*, *Bogipoma*, *Sal*, *Gomari*, *Bola*, etc. Under the scheme 2,063 acres in Karbi Anglong and 1,162 acres in North Cachar Hills will be brought under afforestation by 1970 and 1971 respectively.

Irrigation : Providing water for the developed land is very essential and hence Department has taken some irrigation schemes. Each scheme must benefit at least 10 acres of developed land. In Karbi Anglong, Cinani and Halua are the two successful irrigation projects constructed by the Department. The method of irrigation is by gravity flow and channel. Up till now about 2,000 acres of land in Karbi Anglong has been brought under irrigation.

Agronomical works : Under this scheme, various experiments have been taken up with different kinds of crops like ginger, maize, groundnuts, *matikalai*, mustard, pineapple, banana etc. and results obtained have been demonstrated to the people.

Loan and subsidy : The Department has a loan-cum-subsidy scheme for helping the tribal growers in cultivation of cash crops. 50% of the loan is recovered free of interest in easy instalments while the remaining is treated as subsidy. The Department provides subsidy for terracing and reclamation of land to be converted to permanent cultivation. Under the Agronomical scheme there is a provision to supply one *kodal*, one *khurpi* and one *dao* free of cost for the maintenance of the terraced land.

The Department has also taken up a pilot project scheme to demonstrate the local cultivators the benefits of soil conservation practices in cultivation. Under this project, schemes like land development, irrigation, afforestation, agricultural crops, horticulture and fodder development will be taken up on scientific lines.

Regional and District Research Station and laboratory : The institute has been arranged to be established at Diphu in Karbi Anglong in 1968-69 with a view to improving the various cultural practices, introducing new crops, and studying pests and diseases of different crops, with the ultimate object of maximising the yield and improving the qualities of various crops. An area of sixteen hectares of land is likely to be brought under cultivation. Research work presently will be confined to collection of local and improved varieties of different crops grown within and outside the State and to study them under observation in replicated plots.

Agricultural marketing : There is no regulated market in the district. The marketing system for agriculture products is not developed. Poor means of transport and communication stands in the way of development of markets. Agriculturists do not get fair price of their products. They have to sell their products to their creditors at prefixed rates which are much below the prevailing market rates. The development of co-operative sector is also at its infant stage. A few marketing societies have been organised at selected business centres. The Assam State Warehousing Corporation Ltd., have constructed a warehouse at Howaraghat with capacity of 4,14,372 cft. and another at Langhing with capacity of 1,51,362 cft. A branch of the Agricultural Marketing Department of the State Govt. has been established recently at Diphu which conducts the survey of markets and commodities.

(d) ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES :

Livestock : The United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district has the lowest live stock population among the districts of Assam in the sixties, while Kamrup has the highest. According to the Census of 1966, the live stock population comes to 2,94,022 of whom 2,92,325 in rural areas and only 1,697 in urban areas of the district.

Cattle : Everywhere in India, cattle are considered to be the backbone of the agricultural economy and the closest and constant companion of the farmer. The economy of the district, though agricultural, cattle do not carry the same importance with the farmers here as elsewhere in the country. It is because in *jhum* cultivation, cattle are not used and all the processes of cultivation are carried out by the farmer himself. The local tribal population has also a traditional aversion towards milk drinking. The cows and buffaloes are generally reared by the outsiders especially by the Nepalese who have established small *khutis* in the interior of the

district where sufficient pastures are available for feeding the cattle. They prepare *ghee* and sell in the nearby markets. Male calves are sold for cash money out side the district.

The breed of the cattle in the district is generally of non-descript type. They are neither good milk yielder nor efficient plough puller. The cattle in the areas of Block I and II in Karbi Anglong and Garampani in North Cachar Hills, adjoining the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District are good milk yielder. Bulls are also tough and strong then those of other parts of the State. The following table shows the cattle population in the district since 1945.

Year	1945	1951	1956	1961	1966
Cattle	6,661	5,705	59,300	1,03,495	1,30,539

From the above table, it is evident that leaving aside the period of 1945-51, there has been enormous increase in cattle population during the last two decades. This increase in cattle population may partly be attributed to under enumeration in earlier censuses and partly to the availability of vast grazing areas in the hills. The following table shows the details of cattle population in the district as per the Livestock Census of 1966.

Use	Rural	Urban	Total
Male			
(i) Used for breeding only	1,193	1	1,194
(ii) Used for both breeding & work	3,207	3	3,210
(iii) Used for work only	46,034	140	46,174
(iv) Total	50,434	144	50,578
Female			
(i) In milk on 15th April 1966.	22,970	285	23,255
(ii) Dry	10,498	191	10,689
(iii) Not calved even once	2,351	—	2,351
(iv) Used for work only	893	—	893
(v) Total	36,712	476	37,188

Buffaloes : As regards buffalo population, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district comes to occupy the sixth position among the districts of Assam as per the Livestock Census of 1966. Darrang district has the highest population. The buffalo population in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district has increased considerably in recent years. The population of buffaloes in the district in 1945 was 7,709. This declined slightly to 6,487 in 1951 but increased considerably to 22,152, 43,541 and 53,228 in 1956, 1962 and 1966 respectively. The following table shows the details of buffalo population in the district as per the Livestock Census of 1966.

Use	Rural	Urban	Total
Male			
(i) Used for breeding only	820	—	820
(ii) Used for both breeding and work	3,854	1	3,855
(iii) Used for work only	9,205	16	9,221
(iv) Total	13,879	17	13,886
Female			
(i) In milk on 15th April 1966.	9,844	1	9,845
(ii) Dry	5,099	1	6,000
(iii) Not calved even once	1,997	—	1,997
(iv) Used for work only	2,285	—	2,285
(v) Total	19,225	2	19,227

Sheep and Goat : Practically sheep are not reared in the district though its natural forests and pastures offers good scope for sheep rearing. According to the Livestock Census of 1966, there were only 442 sheep in the district. But rearing of goats is widely prevalent and the district in 1966 has 52,594 nos. of goats. In 1945, the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district had a population of 4,603 goats. This declined to 2,889 in 1951 but rose to 22,907 in 1956 and to 61,748 in 1961. In 1966 it again declined to 52,594. The goats are of indigenous character and non-descript type. Graded Jamunapari goats introduced through Community Development Blocks are thriving excellently in the district. Now a days this breed is becoming quite common.

Horses, Ponies and Mules : Horses and Ponies are not much in use in the district. In 1966, the district has only 443 horses and ponies but there was no mule or donkey.

Pigs : Pork constitute a portion of the staple food of the tribal people of the district and is considered a must in all the community feasts. Every home keeps some pigs. In 1966, the population of pigs came to 56,349.

Poultry : The *deshi* breed of poultry is quite common, and in 1966, their population came to 4,06,562 of which 3,82,815 were fowls, 21,240 ducks and 2,507 others. The poultry population in the district has increased considerably during last 15 years. In 1951 the poultry population of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district stood at 67,634. This increased to 1,93,033, 3,80,724, and 4,06,562 in 1956, 1961, and 1966 respectively. A great majority of poultry belongs to *deshi* breed. Improved breed which mainly consists of White Leghorn, R.I.R., Black Minarca etc., and their crosses forms a very small percentage of the total poultry population. The performance of local breed in production of eggs and meat as compared to improved breed is far from satisfactory. But for the performance of religious rites white birds of local breeds are considered must as it is believed that birds of foreign breeds are not acceptable in offerings to deities. The poor economic conditions of the people coupled with the special attention required in rearing exotic birds also stands in the way of rearing the improved breeds of birds.

Area under Fodder Crops : The necessity of cultivating fodder crops is not felt in the district as it possesses natural gifts of forests and pastures. The Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department has taken up the cultivation of fodder crops viz, Guini, Napier para etc., in the veterinary dispensaries and centres for demonstration but the area under such cultivation is negligible. There are grazing reserves in the district under the control of two District Councils of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. Grazing reserves in Karbi Anglong are divided into Village Grazing Reserve and Professional Grazing Reserve comprising an area of 3,981 *bighas* and 19,088 *bighas* respectively. Taxes at the rate of Rs.6% per buffalo, Rs.4/- per cow and Rs.15/- per elephant are levied per annum on the professional graziers. In North Cachar Hills there is no demarcated area for professional grazing reserve and village grazing reserve but the taxes at the rate of Rs.3/- per buffalo and Re.1/- per cattle annually is realised from the professional graziers. The estimated revenue from the Grazing Tax of two District Councils of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar

Hills came to Rs.3,318/- and 4,916/- respectively in 1964-65. To popularise the nutritious type of fodder, a Fodder Demonstration Farm will be established at Lumbajan.

Dairy Farming : The need of milk for small towns and *bazars* is met by the *Nepali* goats. They have taken advantage of running small *khuties* economically due to natural forestry. There is a proposal to establish one creamy centre at Garampani in North Cachar Hills by the Govt. for collection of cream from the *khutiwallas*. There is a plenty of milk available in and around Garampani but there is keen competition from the private traders who pay advances to the *khutiwallas* and purchase cream.

Fisheries : The Karbi Anglong though mostly comprises low ranges of hills, is constituted and over flanked by more or less plain area particularly the north eastern and north western sides adjoining Sibsagar and Nowgong districts respectively. In these areas few old tanks and *bils* are found which may be reclaimed successfully for fisheries. The North Cachar Hills is more elevated with its average height ranging from 1,000 to 1,200 metres, and which offers very little scope for the development of fisheries. In few natural lakes, fishes of high altitude variety may be tried. It being hilly as a whole offers little scope for development of pisciculture.

Obviously the fishing industry here is not developed on commercial scale. Fish is caught for home consumption by every section of the community. The curing of fish is also undertaken by local tribes. Small dried fish is one of the delicacies of almost all the tribes. The small fish is not cured or prepared in any way but simply dried in the sun. Sometime a little portion of dried fish is also sold in the nearby markets but mostly it is consumed domestically.

Fish, fresh, as well as dried, is brought to the local markets by rail heads from Karimganj and Silchar of the Cachar district. The price of fresh as well as dried fish is settled by weights but occasionally the former is also sold by counts. Though it is difficult to give any figure of fish imported in a year it is beyond doubt that major part of the demand for fish is met by imports. Imports from neighbouring districts is also gradually on increase. Its price has also arisen considerably in recent years.

The favourite way of fishing in the hills is to choose a shallow river and built across a dam with gaps here and there in which long baskets

are placed. The baskets are usually set when the river is discoloured from rain as they are not very effectual in clear water; thousands of fish of all kinds are yearly caught in this manner.

Fishing by poisoning is also very common in the hills. At the beginning of the hot weather about April and May, many of the hill streams are poisoned. For this purpose roots of the two creepers are used. Dimasa Kachari in North Cachar Hills call them *Rugajao* and *Makaw* where as Karbis in the Karbi Anglong call them *Rumiat* and *Rutang*. The *Rugajao* is of red colour and *Makaw* a milky white. The poison of the former is more effective in proportion to the heat of the weather and water. On a cold day, *Makaw* is preferred. The villagers having collected a sufficient quantity of the roots proceed up the stream, some little away above the place, they wish to fish. These roots containing the poison are beaten out to stone, the juice and sap being allowed to flow down with the water. Almost immediately the fish may be seen rising and splashing above the surface. The effect of a *Makaw* is to kill the greater number but the effect of *Rugajao*, if not administered in too large a quantity, is that the fish recover quickly and is apparently as well as ever. Certain fish do not appear susceptible to the poison. *Mahaseen* and lasp family generally do not suffer much where as the *Baginas* is killed in large number. There may be more destructive agents in the form of fish poison in use among the people in hills.

Another method of fishing is by torch light in the night. A sandy shallow river being chosen on some night when there is no moon, two men start in a boat, one pulls a paddle and the second holds torch and spear. On a fish beneath seen on the sand below, the spear is thrown and about four times out of six, the game is bagged.

In the plain areas of the district especially in Karbi Anglong nets are used for fishing. Cast net and drag net called as *oakpe* and *lungtur* or *lunghar* in Karbi dialect, are commonly used. The cast net known as *khewali* in plains is a piece of netting at the centre of which a rope is attached while all round the edges there are weights. The net is thrown flat on the surface of the water, when the weight sinks and drag the sides of the net together, it is then drawn by rope to a boat or bank and fish that may have been swimming in the water over which it has been cast, are entangled in the pockets round the edges. The net is called by different names according to the size of its mesh. The drag net is generally smaller in size with a rectangular shape and having no pockets and weights. The two ends of the net are held by two persons

one standing on the upper side of the water and the other on the lower in water. It is then pushed and dragged in the water to a desirable distance and then suddenly raised up as soon as the fish is felt in front of the net. It is generally used in shallow water.

Fisheries in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills, are under the administrative control of the respective District Council. The important fisheries in Karbi Anglong are Dighalpani Arikati bil, Balisa bil, Kalasera bil, Kopilinadi bil part 1, Era Kopili bil, Memaro bil, Kachmari bil, Khanda bil, Dikhrunadi part 1, Jamunanadi part 11, Kopilinadi part 11, Dikharunadi part 11, Amdubi and Langjut Duli, Komari bil, Chengchung pahar bil, Kopilinadi part 111, Kalioninadi part 1, Kalioni nadi part 11, Lutumari, and Barganga. The important fishing centres in North Cachar Hills are Dihing Lake and fisheries located along the Diyung, Jatinga and Langting rivers. These fisheries are leased to private parties by open bid for a period varying from one year to three years depending upon the nature of permanency of the fishery. There are also some natural fisheries which if developed may prove an abundant source of fish supply. The natural fisheries are Lankajan, Habaipur, No.1,2,3, Joma bil., Bedengpi, Railway bil, Kachupukhuri, Betpukhari. Haflong lake owned by the Town Committee, Haflong also offers a good scope for the development of fishery. Exotic fishes of high altitude may be introduced in this lake on experimental basis. There is also one small lake at Diphu maintained by the District Council, Karbi Anglong. Fishing by angling is permitted on the lake on payment of a certain fees.

The development of fishery is the responsibility of the Fishery Department. For this two Fishery Officers one for Karbi Anglong and another for North Cachar Hills were posted at Diphu and Haflong in 1960 and 1962 respectively. Recently the office of the Superintendent of Fisheries for Hills has been shifted to Diphu in Karbi Anglong. The activities of the fishery unit mainly consists of survey of inland water areas and natural fisheries for the development and improvement, opening of demonstration fish farms and rendering of technical assistance and supply of seeds to the public interested in the development of pisciculture.

The Fishery Department in Karbi Anglong has established three Departmental Fish Farms at Hawraghat, Bokajan and Padmapukhuri for the introduction and distribution of Indian Major Carps. Taking into consideration the great demand for fish seeds, two Fish Seed Farms one at Bokajan and another at Taradubi are being established. It will cover

an area of 6.15 acres with capacity to produce about 7 lakhs fish seeds annually. Subsidies in cash and kind are provided to the deserving private pisciculturists. Fish seeds are supplied at 50% of the subsidised rates. Under the scheme to develop the existing derelict natural fisheries, reclamation works of Taradubi bil under Rongkhang Development Block has been taken up in a phased manner. The reclamation of the entire bil is expected to be completed by 1974-75 and on completion it is expected to yield 30-35 metric ton of fishes annually. Further, three Development Blocks has been covered by Applied Nutrition Programme. The aim of the scheme is to produce fishes through private pisciculturists for free feeding to under-nourished children and expectant mothers. Under the schemes the Department has taken the construction of nursery tanks in Karbi Anglong.

In North Cachar Hills Fish Seed Production Centre is expected to be established at Haflong Upper Lake in 1972-73.

The Applied Nutrition Programme has been made applicable to Jatinga Development Block and for this purpose 19 bighas of water area has been created. Till now the Department has been able to create about 70 acres of water area through private pisciculturists.

Measures to improve quality of breeds to secure greater output: Research centres, model farms etc. : To improve the local breed of live stock, the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department has distributed improved breeds of bulls, poultry, pigs, sheep, goats, heifers etc. The facilities for artificial insemination have been made available in the rural areas currently in the key village centres. Castration of the weedy bulls to prevent degenerated breeding has also been carried out. Cattle fairs and calf rallies are organised on the occasion of *Gausatbarahana* week and exhibitions are held. The district staff visits the interior villages to train up the villagers on various aspects of cattle rearing.

In Karbi Anglong Bull Extension Centres for natural service of the local cows by bull of improved breeds have been established at Lum-bajong, Chutianala, Lumhit, and Diphu. Provisions have been made to extend this scheme to the interior areas of the district. Under the Heifer Distribution Programme, heifers are provided to interested cattle breeders on return basis with the idea of introducing to produce better type of milk producing animals.

To introduce better breeds of live stock and also to provide milk, meat, and egg to the consumers, the following institutions have been

established in the district by the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department.

Govt. Pig-cum-Poultry Farm, Diphu : This farm is situated at about 2 km. distance from Diphu Railway Station on Diphu-Lumding Road. It was originally established as a Sheep and Goat Farm with temporary sheds in 1964. With the establishment of separate Sheep and Goat Farm at Diphu under crash programme, this was converted into a Pig-cum-Poultry Farm. The Farm covers an area of about 330 acres of which about 4 acres are covered with Farm buildings and 3 acres for staff quarters. The remaining area is utilised for growing various seasonal crops such as maize, *til* etc. to meet a part of the food requirement of farm animals and birds.

In the Farm, poultry is raised under modern scientific deep-liter system and pigs are maintained in the semi-intensive method. The poultry are of White Leg Horn (W.L.H.), Rhodea Island Red (R.I.R.) and Austroloop (A.L.) breeds. White Leg Horn breed is considered excellent for its laying capacity but not ideal for meat. The other two breeds are good for both meat and eggs purpose. Pigs are of Yorkshire or Saddle Back breed. The former is good for meat but not preferred by the people of the locality because of its colour. The latter is also good for meat and much preferred by the people than other improved breeds.

Sheep and Goat Farm Diphu : The Farm was established at Diphu, Karbi Anglong in 1965-66. Its live stock population in 1970-71 was about 600 nos. of sheep. Both Nellore and Mondula breeds of sheep are reared in this farm.

Proposals are also there to establish one Fodder Farm and Dairy-cum-Cattle Farm at Lumbajong, about 16 kms. from Diphu on Diphu-Lumding Road. District Council has already provided the land, and construction of buildings are on the way.

Pig-cum-Poultry Farm, Haflong : This Farm was established in 1962 for the development of piggery and poultry in the district. It now covers an area of 200 *bighas*. Pigs in this farm are only of white breed where as birds belong to R.I.R., W.L.H. and A.L. Stock. This farm also sells eggs for table purposes.

Animal Diseases and Veterinary Hospitals : The parasitic diseases such as liver-fluke caused by flat worms and other intestinal parasites that devitalise the animals, are quite common in the district. It is generally caused from the ponds, rivers etc., having stagnant water and

from common grazing reserves. It is a tremendous task to treat the water and land with parasiticide. Some contagious and infectious diseases like haemorrhagic septicaemia, anthrax, black-quarter etc. occur sporadically in all seasons in the district and sometimes specially in the rainy season in epidemic form.

Rinderpest is a fell disease of the cattle. Though, the disease is a preventable one, yet it takes a heavy toll of animal lives. The freeze-dried goat-tissue vaccine is a good antidote to the disease. Outbreak of the foot and mouth disease is also reported occasionally in the district.

The following hospitals and dispensaries have been established by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary to control epidemic and provide medical treatment to diseased live stock in the district.

Karbi Anglong	North Cachar Hills
1. Veterinary Dispensary, Howraghat	1. Veterinary Dispensary Haflong.
2. Mobile veterinary dispensary, Diphu.	2. Veterinary Dispensary Garampani.
3. Veterinary Dispensary, Bokajan	3. Veterinary Dispensary, Maibong.
4. Veterinary Dispensary, Lumbajang.	4. Veterinary Dispensary, Mahur.
5. Veterinary Dispensary, Diphu.	5. Mobile Veterinary Dispensary, Haflong.
6. Veterinary Dispensary, Rongkhong	6. Veterinary R.A.H. Centre, Harangajao.
7. Veterinary Dispensary, Amri	7. Veterinary Aid Centre, Asalu.
8. Veterinary Dispensary, Socheng.	8. Veterinary Aid Centre, Gunjung.
9. Veterinary Dispensary, Nilip.	9. Veterinary Aid Centre, Langting.
10. Mobile Dispensary, Hamren.	10. Veterinary Aid Centre, Sangbar.

Karbi Anglong	North Cachar Hill
11. Veterinary Sub-centre, Hidipi II.	11. Veterinary Aid Centre, Nobdilanghing.
12. Veterinary Sub-centre, Dhansari.	12. Veterinary Aid Centre, Laisong.
13. Veterinary Sub-centre, Disobai.	13. Veterinary Aid Centre, Nriaching bunglow.
14. Veterinary Sub-centre, Rajapathar.	
15. Veterinary Sub-centre, Tumreng.	
16. Veterinary Sub-centre, Boithalangso.	
17. Veterinary Sub-centre, Tengralangso.	
18. Veterinary Sub-centre, Rongpongong.	
19. Veterinary Sub-centre, Anjokpani.	
20. R.A.H. Centre, Phulani.	
21. R.A.H. Centre, Dithor.	
22. Veterinary Aid Centre, Dengaon.	
23. Veterinary Aid Centre, Japarajan.	
24. Veterinary Aid Centre, Kheroni.	
25. Bull Extension Centre, Lumbajong.	
26. Bull Extension Centre, Lumphit.	
27. Bull Extension Centre, Chutianala.	

The cases of animals treated, castrated and vaccinated in the district since 1960 to 1968 were as follows :—

Year	Cases treated	Castrated	Vaccinated
1	2	3	4
1960	3,469	11,510	64,294
1965	4,463	10,247	53,710
1966	15,553	4,400	96,166
1967	16,070	4,551	86,177
1968	16,990	1,240	50,699

(e) **Forestry** : Total area under State Reserved Forest is 2109.94 sq. km. in Karbi Anglong and 644.75 sq. km. in North Cachar Hills. In addition to this there is an extensive area of unclassified State Forests. This area is forest in name only, due to the fact that unrestricted *jhumming* has virtually denuded the area of forest trees. It is covered with dense bamboos and grasses with a few scattered trees here and there. The forests are managed by the respective District Councils of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills.

The forests of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district are noted for their forest wealth. Hill economy greatly depends on them. They provide fresh lands for their *jhumming*. Hill people procure from forests all the materials required for construction of houses. Forests are also the abundant source of *shikar* which is a must to the sportive life of the people living in the hills. Forests provide valuable timbers which are used for construction of houses and buildings, manufacture of plywood and furniture etc., within the district. Timber is also exported to upper Assam and Calcutta to feed the saw mills, plywood factories and furniture making units. Timber species produced by these forests are teak, *hollock*, *gamari*, *sam*, *sonaru*, *ajhar*, *poma*, *bogipoma*, *bhelu*, *tilasapa*, *bonsom*, *amri*, *korai*, *khorr*a etc. Minor forest products are firewood, bamboo, cane, thatch, *rema*, *patidoi*, *agor*, *chalmugra*, *dhuna*, *banslochan*, honey, *tezpat*, lac and minor minerals like sand and sand stones etc. Bamboo resources of North Cachar Hills are rich enough to support a paper pulp mill in the area. The Langting—Mupa forest reserves covering an area of 1,21,866 acres are very rich in bamboo and *bhelu* trees providing excellent materials for the manufacture of the paper. Already bamboos are exported to Calcutta for the Bengal Paper Mill which has its agency at Langting for the extraction of bamboos. A Paper and Pulp Mill in Public Sector with an estimated cost of Rs. 70 crores is going to be established at Jagiroad in Nowgong district. The raw materials for this Mill will be procured from North Cachar Hills.

Forests are also good source of revenue to the District Councils of Karbi Anglong and the North Cachar Hills. With better management, revenue from forests is likely to increase considerably.

Forests in Karbi Anglong are under the control of two forest divisions, namely, Karbi Anglong East Division and Karbi Anglong West Division with their head quarters at Diphu and the forests of North Cachar Hills are under the control of North Cachar Hills Division, Haflong. Divisional

Forest Officer, is the head of forest division. He, assisted by numerous other forest officials, looks after the scientific development and exploitation of forests under his control. There is a working plan for each division according to which development of forests and extraction of timber are carried out. Some of the schemes undertaken are plantation, road development, building construction, forest protection and regeneration etc.

(f) **State assistance to agriculture** : Production oriented scheme implemented through various agencies of the State Government have brought much improvement to the agriculture. Besides, the measures discussed above the State Government also provides loans to agriculturists in the shape of seed loan and cattle loan. Distribution of improved seeds and manures, execution of minor and medium irrigation schemes, reclamation of waste lands, construction of dams and bunds to control floods, imparting of necessary training to farmers by way of demonstration, supply of improved agricultural implements, and other measures have yielded rich dividends in recent times.

CHAPTER—V

INDUSTRY

The United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district, which is one of the least urbanized districts of Assam, is not an industrially progressive district. During a period of only fifteen years since its formation in 1951, it cannot be expected to make much headway industrially. Although it did not exist during the time of partition, the impact of disruption created by the partition of the country did affect its economy to a great extent as it did that of other districts of Assam. Several causes account for the industrial backwardness of the district. The most prominent of all is the fact that the district is very much rural in character mostly inhabited by tribal people practising *jhum*, and more or less isolated from the rest of Assam due to its geographical location. Poor development of communication affected the normal flow of trade and commerce and natural resources were left unharnessed. These and such other causes make the task of integrated development of the district economy a difficult one. The recent years have however seen some progress and the account given in the following pages would show that, while existing industries have been sought to be developed a number of small scale units have sprung up, though the tempo of progress cannot be taken as at all satisfactory. Tea, coal, and lac constitute the main industries of this district. There are a few scattered saw mills, rice mills, bakery, carpentry, jewellery work shops and other small scale units but they are not of much importance. Most of these small scale industries are owned and run by the Bengali refugees and Marwaris. The district has practically no industrial class.

(a) **OLD TIME INDUSTRIES** : Many cottage industries have existed among these tribal people from time immemorial. These old time industries of the people can broadly be divided into the following categories.

Weaving : Hand loom weaving is a popular and age old industry of almost all the tribes dwelling in the district. It is a monopoly of the woman folk. In almost every house there is a loom but the cotton cloth produced is generally required for home consumption, and is very seldom sold. The looms they use is simple and small. The

weavers use the single needle tension or loin loom. The looms used by the Kacharis are bigger in size than those used by other tribes. They resemble those of Assamese country type.

Quantum of handloom products are however very much less than could be expected and there can be little doubt that weaving as an industry is commercially a failure, the price obtained for the finished articles being out of proportion to the time expended on its production. Weaving only occupies the leisure moments of the women, the use of home made clothing helps to save the pocket of the villagers. They produce only limited varieties of cloth viz. the *Chaddar*, the *Mekhala*, *Languti* and rough type of cloth for shirts. The Kukis weave cloths called '*Pal*' which are not unlike the '*Khesi*' and most of their clothing like that of Karbis and Nagas is home made. A speciality of their is the '*Pari*' a kind of rug made of lumps of raw cotton woven into a coarse stout cloth and knitted lightly between the weft. The ordinary *pari* is about 8' and 4' and costs some five rupees. The people are also interested in colour designs. The Karbi women knew a few designs mostly of diamond pattern. The Kacharis are more prosperous in design scheme and their women know a good number of designs.

Cotton is grown in large quantities by the tribes of the district. The bulk of the products goes out of the district and only a small portion is used for spinning into thread. Hand spinning on '*Taklis*' is a popular craft of the Karbis. The Kacharis spin on *charkha* made by their own hands out of timber and bamboo.

A number of natural dyes are known to the people. Generally black is preferred by them. In dyeing yarn they use a kind of locally available vegetation.

Eri Silk : Rearing of *Eri* Silk worm, spinning of *Eri* cocoons and weaving of *Eri* silk cloth is one of the oldest industries of the two tribes namely Karbis and Kacharis. The worm (*attacus ricini*) derives its name from the *Eri* or castor oil plant (*ricinus communis*) on which it is usually fed. Number of broods hatched in a year is five to six. Those which spin their cocoons in November, February, and May, yield more silk. The females, when they emerge, are tied to pieces of reed, and are visited by the males who are left at liberty. The eggs are hatched in the house and take from a week to fifteen days to mature. As soon as the worms appear, they are placed on a tray, which is sus-

ended in a place of safety, and fed on the leaves of castor oil plant. When fully grown, they are about 3 inches long, of a dirty white or green colour. After the final moulting, the worms are transferred from the tray to forked twigs suspended across a piece of reed and when they are ready to spin, are placed on a bundle of dried plantain leaves or withered branches, which is hung from the roof of the hut. The matrix of the cocoon is very gummy, and the silk, which is of a dirty white colour, has to be spun, not reeled. Before this is done, the cocoons are softened by boiling them in water mixed with a solution of alkali. Empty cocoons yield about three quarters of their weight in thread. Cocoon rearing is very popular in the district amongst the local tribal people as they consider the cocoon worm to be a delicious food. So there is a great prospect for sericulture development in the district.

The most useful garment made of *Eri* silk is the '*Borkapor*', a long sheet, some times as much as 20 feet in length with 5 feet width folded and used as a wrap in cold weather. *Eri* cloth is also made into coats and *Petticoats*. The instruments used for twisting and weaving silk are the same as those employed for cotton, but for *Eri* thread a stronger reed is employed.

Cane and Bamboo Industries : Cane and bamboo are available in plenty in the hills. Every household is making good use of these materials in making their dwelling houses and also in manufacturing domestic articles such as mats (*Dhari*), baskets, carrying baskets, bamboo water-carrier (long bamboo pipes) cane *murha* (seats) and other things. It is a common industry for all the tribes of the district. Among the Karbi tribes mat-making is an economically important industry at present in as much as it supplements their income to a considerable extent. There is a heavy demand for this article for house-making and other purposes by the plains people. These mats are being sold at the weekly markets of Amsoi, Nellie, Chalna, Lumding, and so on. The Kacharis produce a well decorated mat for their ceremonial purposes. The production is of course very limited and meet only the local demand.

Metal Industries : There are limited number of blacksmiths among the Karbis. Same is the case with the Kacharis and the like. This industry has a very prosperous antiquity in the history of crafts in the district. It is found that this industry was flourishing well, when out side supply of required tools and implements of iron and steel were totally nil. The reasons of its present pitiable state of affairs are accredited to

the age old crude and unscientific process of production and availability and over-flow of low price outside products.

The people are by nature decorative and they wear ornaments of various designs made generally of silver, brass, and such other metals. In long past, silver and other smiths who made ornaments were many among the tribes, but now it is very difficult to get such smiths from among these tribes. Bengali smiths, who mainly are refugees, have taken their place and make ornaments for the people according to their liking and taste. The remnants of the ornamental designs of the tribes are now found in the hands of these smiths. Apart from their own designs, the tribal women are apt to adopt ornaments of various outside designs now-a-days.

Pottery : Pottery is rare in the district. In olden times, it existed among the Karbi tribe, but now this craft is nearly extinct. The reason is attributed mostly to the availability of cheap utensils of alluminium.

Food Industries : Among food industries, hand-pounding of rice and bee-keeping are the main ones prevailing from old times. Husking of paddy and pounding of rice are done on the wooden mortars. This is rather a work common for all the tribal households.

Lac Industries : Lac cultivation is an important industry of the district. It is generally reared on *Arhar* (*cajanus indicus*) and a plant called *Kallibat*. The method of propagation is as follows : Pieces of stick lac containing living insects are placed in baskets and tied on to the twigs of the tree on which the next crop is to be grown. After a few days the insects crawl on the young branches and begin to feed and secrete the resin. They are left undisturbed for about six months and the twigs encrusted with the secretion are then picked off. Two crops are generally obtained in the year, the first being collected in May and June, the second in October and November. The first crop is largely used for seed and it is the second which supplies the bulk of the exported lac. A good sized tree yields from 30 *seers* to 40 *seers* of stick lac, the best result being obtained from trees of moderate growth which do not contain too much supply of a sap. The caterpillars, parasites, and precaters of a small moth sometimes do much damage to the insect and a heavy storm, at the time when they are spreading over the plant, will destroy them altogether. The lac produced is exported in its crude

form stick lac, but the hill tribes occasionally extract the dye which they require for their own use by placing the lac in a wooden mortar pouring boiling water over it and pressing it with a pestle.

Lac is cultivated more or less through out the Karbi Anglong. But most important areas are Duar Amala *Mauza* and Rongkhang *Mauza*. In North Cachar Hills lac cultivation is negligible at present. Important markets for lac are Baithalangso, Nellie, Amsoi, Chapanalala, Bokajan, Borpathar, Sarupathar, and Deothar. Figures of total output of Karbi Anglong are available for the following years :-

1957-58	..	5,249 mds	The figures are only of uncla-
1958-59	..	8,853 mds	ssed Forests
1959-60	..	3,809 mds	

Prior to the year of 1954, all stick lac produced in Assam were mainly exported to Calcutta and Bihar. Considering the necessity of a Shellac Factory here in Assam to process stick lac into Shellac, Seed lac, Button lac etc., the Government of Assam established one Shellac Factory at Chaparmukh, Nowgong in the year 1954 under the Department of Cottage Industries. This Factory is exporting lac in the form of Shellac, Button lac, Seed lac, Kiri lac etc., mainly to Calcutta. The purchases of lac by the Shellac Factory, Chaparmukh, from United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district were as follows :-

1957-58	..	2,257 mds	30 srs	— Rs.1,11,013.00
1958-59	..	1,283 mds	20 srs	— Rs. 49,996.00
1959-60	..	1,071 mds	332 srs	— Rs. 44,995.05

The gradual falling of lac production can be attributed to the dead fall in price and lack of stable market. Due to great number of middle men, actual growers are not getting the fair price. High rate of royalty in comparison with the current market price has also affected the production.

With a view to improve the mode of cultivation and thereby to help the tribal cultivator, the Government of Assam has established under the lac cultivation scheme, some 'brood lac-cum-demonstration farms' at different important lac growing areas. Some Demonstrators have been trained in the India Lac Research Institute, Namkur, Ranchi (Bihar) and posted them at each of these centres with adequate staff. In addition to

their Farm work i.e. propagating brood lac etc., the said demonstrators will go to every village under lac cultivation and distribute brood lac on condition that they will return the *phunki* stick lac obtained from the brood lac actually supplied to them. They render all possible technical help to the lac growers.

In the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district there were three brood lac-cum-demonstration centres with an area of 20 acres each as shown below, in 1961.

Location.	Year of Establishment
In Karbi Anglong	
1. Baithalangso ..	1957.
2. Kohora ..	1958.
In N.C. Hills	
3. Mupa ..	1957.

In addition to the above, Amjong Brood-lac-cum-Demonstration Farm (K & J Hills) is situated at the junction of Karbi Anglong, Khasi & Jaintia Hills and Nowgong district and its supplies serve Duar Amla Mauza. All the Brood Farms except at Baithalangso, were in purely organisational stage in 1961 and so annual production is negligible.

Reasons for decay : Some of the above stated old-time industries like weaving, bamboo and cane work etc., are still surviving, but others like pottery, blacksmithy, jewellery etc., have nearly died out among the tribals. Lack of proper technical know-how on modern scientific methods of production, lack of finance and proper patronage, change of customer's taste, lack of commercial art and marketing facilities and keen outside competition are the main reasons that have affected these old-time industries.

Newly grown-up Industries : Attempts have been made by the Government through Cottage Industries Department to preserve the traditional industries of the district to revive the defunct ones and improve the same. Further, the growth of important small scale industries has been fostered. The following industries have grown up in the urban, semi-urban and rural areas of the district in recent times.

A list of other small and domestic industries working in the district is given below :

- (a) Agricultural Industries : (1) Rice and flour milling, (2) Oil pressing by improved *ghanis* as well as by mills, (3) *Gur* making, (4) Bakery and (5) *Bidi* Making.
- (b) Textile Industries : Handloom weaving on improved loom (fly shuttle), (2) Tailoring, needle work and knitting.
- (c) Wood Work Industries : (1) Sawing (2) Carpentry (3) Furniture and Cabinet making (4) Cart wheel making (5) Toy making.
- (d) Metal Industries : (1) Jewellery-gold and silver smithy.
- (e) Leather and allied industries : (1) Manufacture and repairing of foot-wears.
- (f) Ceramic Industries : (1) Brick making.
- (g) Chemical Industries : (1) Soap making.
- (h) Repairing Industries such as cycle repairing, repairing of Radio, Gramophone, motor-repairing etc.

INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURE OF THE DISTRICT

(i) **Power supply :** The power house at Diphu was set up by State Electricity Board, Assam in 1957 and commissioned in 1958 with two generating sets of 25 kw. and 40 kw. Consequently with the increase of load another 50 kw. set was installed in 1963. With the further increase of load, another 250 kw. set was installed in 1965. In March 1968, the Namrup Thermal Power Supply was energized and connected with Diphu by 33 kw. line from Bokajan. The power house is now kept as stand-by supply during the period of interruption or lowering down of the load in the main line (33 kv).

Karbi Anglong is now connected by a 66 k.v. line over a distance of 91 kilometres from Golaghat sub-station of the Assam State Electricity Board to their Bokajan Sub-Station. Diphu Sub-Station is connected by a 33 k.v. line from Bokajan over a distance of 55 km. There is a proposal to extend the line from Diphu to Lumding over a distance of 40 km. and Diphu to Siloni by 11 kv. line over a distance of 24 km. covering Mohindijua and Lumbajan Block. The following table shows the details of electricity in Karbi Anglong :

Year	No of consumers.	Domestic consumers	Units consumed by domestic consumers (kwh)	No. of Industrial consumers	Units consumed by Industrial consumers (kwh)	Other consumers	Units consumed by other consumers (kwh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1958	28	28	1,957	—	—	—	—
1960	61	61	3,123	—	—	—	—
1965	222	220	2,753	2	2,512	—	—
1966	279	275	9,279	4	4,145	—	—
1967	323	319	3,484	4	3,155	—	—
1968	330	334	22,827	6	27,570	—	—
1969	350	337	30,069	6	20,535	7	2,057
1970	474	454	4,11,421	11	3,78,277	9	2,203

Power House at Haflong was installed by Assam State Electricity Board in 1966. It has two generating sets of 200 kw. The district has 33 kv. line over a distance of 60 kilometres and a 11 kv. line between Haflong and Maibong over a distance of 23 kms. is under construction. The Power House is not in a position to work throughout the day. It supplies electricity from 1 p.m. to 5 a.m. only. Two villages namely Dibrai and Dittock-Cherra are electrified. Proposals are also there to electrify Jatinga and Bara-Haflong. The following table shows details of electricity consumed in Haflong town.

Year	No. of domestic consumers	No. of Industrial consumers	Public lighting	Total units consumed. (in kwh)
1	2	3	4	5
1966	85	1	2	42,543
1967	104	2	2	70,778
1968	130	3	3	97,870
1969	150	3	4	1,20,023
1970	156	3	4	1,47,811

(ii) Mining and Heavy Industries :

Mining Industries : There is no mining industry save and except the two collieries, namely Koilajan Colliery and Silbheta Colliery located in Karbi Anglong. The Koilajan Colliery is near Dillai and has been in operation since 1949. The area of working operation is about 700 acres. Coal is at present being mined out along the left bank of the Koilajan. The pits are commonly liable to flood by the water of the stream and regular pumping out of the water becomes necessary to carry out the mining operations. Method and process of extracting coal is bore and pillar method in the first workings. In the second workings, dipillaring is done by caving method by formation of artificial panels. Complete extraction of coal is not possible and loss of coal is nearly 22%. Picks, shovels, spades are used for extracting coal. Its capital investment on 31st December, 1959 amounted to Rs.7.6 lakhs.

The out put of coal from this colliery is gradually on decline. In 1959 the average out put was about 700 tonnes per month. This is a very low production compared to the past which was 1,200 tonnes to 2,000 tonnes per month. Production has further declined in the following years. The main reason for decline in production appears to be water logging of the working pits and inadequate machineries for mining at increasing depths. The coal is transported in trucks to the rail head at Dimapur. These handicaps coupled with poor quality of coal renders its coal less attractive as compared to coal from Ledo and Margherita coal fields.

The Silbheta Colliery is situated at a distance of 42 kms. from Diphu on the Diphu-Nowgong Road. Its base area is one square mile. The mining operation in this colliery commenced on 6th Feb., 1963. The thickness of coal seam in this colliery is very low. It varies from 5 feet to 12 feet, the average being 7 feet. The coal seams are generally located at twenty to sixty feet depth from the ground surface. The quarry is worked seasonally in dry whether. In rainy seasons the quarry gets flooded with rain water. No mechanised process is applied in extracting coal. Only manual process with the help of shovels, spades etc., is used for mining the coals. The average production of coal is about 12,000 mt. The coal is brought to rail head at Diphu by trucks and dispatched to different centres mainly to Nowgong and Cachar. Its main buyer is tea industry. A small quantity also comes to Gauhati and are used in Brick-making industry. In peak period of its working, this colliery provides employment to about 300 persons.

(iii) **Large scale Industries** : Of the Large scale industries mention may be made of Cement Factory which is proposed to be established at Bokajan by Cement Corporation of India with an estimated cost of Rs.10.71 crores. In the eastern region there is heavy shortage of cement and its transportations from surplus areas of other parts of the country involves long haulage and heavy railway freights even though there is no shortage of limestone which is the main raw materials required for the manufacture of the cement in the State of Assam. Taking into consideration all these aspects, the Govt. of India realised the necessity of setting up a cement factory at Bokajan. The prospecting of lime stone in this area was carried out by the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Govt. of Assam. The Cement Corporation of India prepared a feasibility report and also carried out its own prospecting in Sairi Langso and Dilai area in 1967-68. The lime stone deposits in this area were described to be heavily overburdened with soil shale and sand stone of varying thickness. The volume of overburden to be handled in this factory is the largest compared to any other factory. The quarry will be at a distance of 29 kms along the Sariahjan-Diphu Road and the lime stone will be transported from quarry to factory over an aerial distance of 18 kms by ropeway. There is a proposal of constructing residential quarters at the quarry site for the staff working at the quarry.

It is proposed to produce 600 tonnes of cement per day in this factory by utilising the dry process for its manufacture. There will be two kilns of 300 tonnes each. As Bokajan lies in the highest Seismic Zone, the design of heavy and tall structures and foundation for heavy machinery, therefore, needs great skill and caution. A township has also been planned for housing nearly two hundred workers near the factory. Water requirement, which would be about 35 lakh gallons per day (25 lakhs for factory and ten lakhs for township) will be met from the river Dhansiri. Approximate cost of the water works would be about Rs.30 lakhs. On account of the high cost of material and labour in this area and the fact that Bokajan lies in the highest Seismic Zone, the cost of setting up of the cement factory at the place would be much more than the cost at normal locations. The overall cost of this plant in approximation will be Rs.10.71 crores, of which plant and machinery will cost Rs.2 crores; aerial rope way Rs.2.3 crores; quarry equipment, laboratory equipment, workshop machinery, cranes, refractory bricks, diesel locos for shunting etc. Rs.2 crores. Foundation of the factory structure alone will cost Rs.2 crores and the cost of township and buildings will be Rs.80 lakhs. It is likely to go into production in 1975.

Plywood Factory : Karbi Anglong has two plywood factories namely the Mikir Hills Saw and Plywood Factory located at Diphu and Mikir Hills Forest Products located at Bokajan. Both the factories are in the private sector, the former being a proprietary unit of M/s Wood Craft Products Ltd., Calcutta and latter is a privately owned concern.

The Mikir Hills Saw and Plywood Factory is situated at a distance of about 4 km from the Diphu Rly. Station. It is likely to go into production in 1970. It will have a capital investment of Rs.7,50,000/- in land, building plant, machineries and equipments. It will have the productive capacity of 50,000 square metres of commercial plywood, 25,000 square metres of black boards and flush doors and 25,000 square metres of tea chests per month. Practically there will be no local demand for the products of the factory and the produced goods will be sent outside the district. The raw materials required for the factory is available locally and it will consume only a small portion of the district's timber.

M/S Mikir Hills Forest Products, Bokajan is a saw-cum-plywood factory. It is a smaller unit but running satisfactory. Its products are also sent outside the district.

Tea Gardens : It has already been mentioned that Karbi Anglong has 10 tea gardens with a total area of 1206.08 hectares under them. In fact, manufacture of tea and its cultivation is the most important and largest industry of Karbi Anglong and the only large labour concern. It accounts for employment to the majority of the working force of the district and hence has a place of special importance in the economy of the district. The merits of Karbi Anglong as a tea producing district are, however, comparatively low.

(v) **Small scale Industries** :

There are small units of saw mills, rice mills, flour mills, brick kilns, candle manufacturing, soap making, trunk and bucket making, printing press, motor repairing etc. The strength of small scale industrial units registered with Directorate of Industries, Assam was 34 in Karbi Anglong and 3 in North Cachar Hills in 1969-70. Main centres where these industries are clustered are Bokajan, Howraghat and Diphu in Karbi Anglong and Haflong in North Cachar Hills. Some of the important small scale industries are as follows :

Saw Mills : The industry is flourishing day by day and there is a great scope of its expansion in future due to abundance of locally available raw materials. There are altogether seven units working at Dhansiri, Khutkhuti, Lahorijan, Diphu in Karbi Anglong and Nailalang in North Cachar Hills. The industry has vast potentiality for expansion taking into consideration the unlimited forest wealth of the district, a large part of which still remains untapped. The capital investment of these saw mills varies from rupees ten thousand to Rs. two lakhs. Diesel, steam sets are used for running these saw mills. Sawn timbers are mostly sent outside the State particularly to places like Calcutta, Rourkela, Delhi, Rajasthan etc. A large number of sleepers are also supplied to Railways.

Rice Mills : There are only five rice mills in Karbi Anglong of which two are at Diphu and one at Bokajan.

Flour Mills : With the change in the dietary habits the consumption of wheat is increasing gradually and this has provided scope for the opening of small units of flour mills (*Atta chaki*) for grinding wheat. Besides grinding *atta*, these mills have also undertaken the grinding of other things like turmeric, chillies etc.

Ginning Mills : Cotton is widely cultivated in Karbi Anglong and almost whole of it is exported outside the district in unginned form. It has also a good international market as it can be blended with wool very suitably. The Diphu Cotton Ginning Co-operative Mills was established in 1955-56 with an estimated cost of rupees three lakhs but since its establishment it is not working satisfactorily.

The Assam Hills Small Industries Development Corporation has undertaken development of few industries in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district. *Khandsari* and lime stone plant in Karbi Anglong and Fruit Preservation Factory in North Cachar Hills are likely to be new ventures of the Corporation.

(vi) **Cottage Industries :**

Important industries that exist in the district are weaving, sericulture, pottery, bamboo and cane works, blacksmithy, gold and silver smithy, lac have already been described as old time industries. Among other cottage industries of the district mention may be made of bee-keeping, rope and net making, oil crushing etc., practised by the individuals here

and there. In the sugar cane producing areas *gur* making is very common. In order to encourage cottage industries, the Khadi and Village Industries Board has set a number of development centres in the district. In recent years tailoring also appears to have made large entry into interior areas of the district. Due to the increasing use of bicycles, the cheapest means of conveyance, a number of cycle repairing shops are coming up in the towns. Tailoring and Bicycle repairing shops are however not taken up by the indigenous people.

(c) **INDUSTRIAL POTENTIALITIES AND PLANS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT :**

Agro-Industries : It seems there is a vast field for the development of small scale and cottage industries based on its agricultural and forest products in the district. Main agricultural products of the district are paddy, maize, mustard and oil seeds, cotton, sugarcane, ginger, turmeric and such other crops. Most of these agricultural products except paddy are exported outside the district. Industries based on the raw materials of these crops can thrive well in the different localities of the district. Industries like pressing of oil seeds in *ghanis*, ginning and spinning of cotton, making of *gur* from sugarcane, processing of ginger and turmeric, can grow well and benefit the economically under-developed indigenous inhabitants of the district. There is also a good scope for the development of fruit preservation industry, as fruits, particularly orange and pine-apple, are sufficiently available in the North Cachar Hills. Some of the above mentioned industries would be seasonal in character. The busy season of these industries would coincide with the slack season of agriculture and cultivators could easily devote their leisure time in the pursuit of these industries. The industries like the pressing of oil seeds in *ghannis* and ginning and spinning of cotton can provide ideal subsidiary occupation to the agriculturists.

Forest based industry : The district is full of forests abounding in varieties of good timber which can be used as raw material for cabinet and furniture manufacture, saw mills, timber plants etc. Scope is also there for manufacture of charcoal for fueling purposes for many industries. Bee keeping industry has sufficient scope for its development. Due to the abundance of wild flowers in forests, bee keeping is specially suitable to this district. Extraction of *Agaru* (scent) and collection of *Banslochan* and other medicines have some scope to develop as an industry as these are available in the forests.

A variety of products can be manufactured from bamboo and cane which are abundantly available in the district. Huge quantities of plucking baskets made of cane are required in the tea gardens every year. The smaller establishment if developed can well cater to the needs of individuals by taking the manufacture of various types of furnitures and sundry articles like boxes, cradles, *Murhas*, office trays, waste paper baskets, *sital pati* etc. Umbrella handle making industry can develop well as the district abounds in *Raidang* cane which can be compared favourably with the renowned *Malacca* cane.

Minerals-based industry : Though the district has not been mapped in detail and the economic value of its mineral resources are still not precisely known, it has potentialities in coal, lime-stone and clays. Minor occurrence of Mica, Beryl etc., are also reported. Coal, a basic fuel for development of industries, is mainly found in the areas of Koilajan, Longlai, Kheroni, Silbheta, Desobai-Nala and Khumabaman range and other places along the Jamuna valley on the southern side of Karbi Anglong. Two collieries at Koilajan and Silbheta are already working. The anticipated reserve of coal in some of the important areas may be of the order of a few million tonnes. Detailed exploration to prove the extent, reserve and grade of coal in different places is underway to open up and develop coal mining industry.

Limestone of good quality have been reported from many places in the district and the reserves contain 154 million tonnes. This area can support a cement plant to meet the demand for cement in upper Assam, Tripura and Manipur. The main occurrences are around Garampani in the Kopili valley in the North Cachar Hills and Koilajan, Manjeli, Silbheta, Mayong Disa, Longlai and the adjacent areas along the Jamuna valley on the Southern side of Karbi Anglong. It is learnt that the Dillai area has the best potentialities for the manufacture of portland cement. It is reported that this area alone is in a position to supply limestone for about 350 years for a factory with a production capacity of 500 tonnes cement a day. The detailed exploration by drilling and sampling is now being carried on by the Geological Survey of India and the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Assam for setting up cement factories at Garampani in the North Cachar Hills and at Bokajan in the Karbi Anglong and scheme for establishing cement factory at Bokajan has already been taken up.

Various types and grades of clays are found to occur within the rocks of Jaintia, Borail and Dihing series. Good quality of clays are

known to occur at places such as Kailani, Disobai Nala etc. Lithomarge, a special variety of clay is also found in this district. Though the details of the reserves and grades are not known, some of these clays may be useful for ceramic ware industries.

(d) LABOUR AND EMPLOYERS ORGANISATION :

Labour organisations : Assam Chah Kramachari Sangha and Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha are the two organisation for employees functioning in the district. Assam Chah Kramachari Sangha is the organisation for the staff other than the manual workers. It is affiliated to Indian National Trade Union Congress. Its branch office is located at Golaghat and this branch covers the Karbi Anglong, North Cachar Hills and Golaghat sub-division of Sibsagar District. Out of nearly one thousand employees (only staff) this *Sangha* has got over eight hundred members which appear to be constant for the last 5 years. Quite recently it has granted a monthly stipend of Rs.50/- to the doctor of Sorunga T.E. to undergo a course of training in family planning.

Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha is an organisation of the manual labourers and affiliated to Indian National Trade Union Congress. It has its permanent branch office at Golaghat, constructed recently at a cost of over a lakh of rupees. This branch extends its jurisdiction over the Karbi Anglong, North Cachar Hills and Golaghat Sub-division of Sibsagar District. The rate of subscription is Rs.6/- per head per year. The membership of the *Sangha* is round about twelve thousands out of the total employees of forty thousands working in the above mentioned area.

Employer's organisation : Assam Tea planters Association Jorhat and the Bhartiya Chah Parishad, Dibrugarh are the two employer's organisation which cover the tea gardens of Karbi Anglong.

(e) WELFARE OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR : In pre-Independence days there was no organisation of the workers. Effective and suitable laws were few. No practical machinery was however there to look after the workers and their welfare. As a matter of fact the workers in these days were at the mercy of the employers.

But since Independence, due to the passing of the various enactments and radical changes effected into the existing laws to ameliorate the terms and conditions of the industrial labour, the labourers, parti-

cularly the tea labourers have made rapid strides in matters relating to working hours, working condition, leave with wages, sick allowance, national and festival holidays, water supply, medical, educational and recreational facilities etc. Security of service, freedom of association and expression, increase wages, payment of bonus, employment of field staff, settlement and adjudication of industrial disputes, are some of the highlights for the welfare of the industrial labour. Comparatively the earning position of the labour family is better than that of an ordinary middle class family as there are generally more than one wage earner in the former. In spite of all these, there is no appreciable change in their standard of living. This is mainly due to their popular liquor habits and apathy against education.

The following legislative enactments have been governing the terms and conditions of the industrial workers.

- (1) The Workmen's Compensation Act 1923.
- (2) Indian Trade Union Act, 1926.
- (3) The Tea District Emigrant Labour Act, 1932.
- (4) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936.
- (5) The Assam Maternity Benefit Act, 1944.
- (6) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.
- (7) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- (8) The Factories Act, 1948.
- (9) The Assam Shop and Establishment Act, 1948.
- (10) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- (11) The Plantation Labour Act, 1951.
- (12) The Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund (Scheme) Act, 1955.
- (13) The Working Journalists (Conditions of Service).
- (14) The Assam Plantations Employees Welfare Fund Act, 1959.
- (15) The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification) Act, 1959.

Wages : There has been a phenomenal increase in wage levels of industrial labourers in tea gardens since 1946. Prior to this, the rate of wages was Rs.0.37 for male and Rs.0.25 for female per day. At a tripartite conference held at Delhi in 1947, increase in wages was agreed upto to Rs.0.62 for male and Rs.0.50 for female per day. This rate of wage was, however, exclusive of the food and other concessions enjoyed by the workers. The Government of Assam again in 1952 under the Minimum Wages Act, revised the wages of the tea labourers

and prescribed the rate of Rs.0.52 for children exclusive of the food and other concessions enjoyed by the workers. The minimum rates of wages were again revised by the Government with effect from 1st December, 1959 which is still in force. The rates were fixed at Rs.1.76 equally for male and female and Rs.0.88 for children per day. Besides these rates, it was made obligatory on the part of the employers to supply food grains to the labourers at Rs.17.60 per *maunds*.

Bonus : For the first time the labourers came to enjoy bonus in 1956, on account of the year 1953 and 1954, under a tripartite agreement. The gardens of above 300 acres had to pay Rs.130/- and the gardens below 300 acres Rs.65/- per adult. A male worker with a minimum of 240 days work in a year was entitled to full bonus. Out of this bonus, one third was to be invested in National Savings Certificate. The rate of bonus given to labourer and the staff is however changing from year to year.

Medical facilities : The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 made it obligatory on the part of the employers to provide free medical facilities to the workers employed by them for special treatment. The Government has prescribed 7 medical hospitals in the State for special treatment. In 1947 the Tripartite Conference prescribed 25 np. per day as sick allowance for the manual workers, but so far as staff is concerned, it was more or less customary to obtain sickness benefit of course with variation. The manual labourer are enjoying 14 days sick leave with two thirds of their normal pay under the Plantation Labour Act in a year. This is also applicable to the staff but by convention, they are enjoying greater benefits. Almost in every garden, there is also the system of paying sickness *hazira* to the labourers while their dependents are sick. The female workers are also entitled to maternity leave (4 weeks pre-natal and 8 weeks post-natal) for 12 weeks with Rs.8.41 p. per week as maternity allowance.

Pension and gratuity : As regards old age benefits there is no set law nor is there any industrial scheme for payment of retirement benefit to the workers by way of pension or gratuity. Nambarnadi T.E. in Karbi Anglong while it was under European management had its own pension scheme for the staff members. But at present instead of granting life pensions to the retired employees has restricted the pension benefit to a limited number of years with some commutation of money. But in other gardens retirement benefit by way of gratuity at the rate of 15

days for every completed years of service is given. In case of the manual workers some gardens are in practice of granting a subsistence allowance either in cash or kind while others prefer to offer employment to the dependents of the retired labourers.

Provident fund : Employees Provident Fund Act of 1952 made it an obligation on the part of the employers to contribute 6½ % of the wages and dearness allowance payable to each employees and similar contributions shall be made by the employees. But contributions towards the administration of fund is to be made by the employer alone.

Other benefits enjoyed by the labourers of the tea gardens are as follows.

(1) Leave with wages at the rate of 1 day for every 10 days of work for both adults and for children.

(2) Free housing accommodation, free water supply within 100 yards, from their residence and free supply of required tea at work sites.

(3) Free creche and educational facilities in most cases up to the primary standard.

There is however no such facility available to the agricultural labourers.

CHAPTER—VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE.

A. BANKING AND FINANCE

(a) HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS BANKING :

As in other districts of Assam, history of indigenous banking in the erstwhile United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district is also obscure. It may, however, be said that this district was constituted after Independence with the most backward areas and hilly tracts from the adjoining districts of Nowgong, Sibsagar, Cachar and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, mostly inhabited by the Karbis. Kacharis and other hill tribes, who generally live on *jhum* cultivation and other hill products. These simple and unsophisticated tribal people lived in wanton misery for centuries in the darkness of the unexplored regions without touch of modern life and civilisation. Such an economy perhaps did not foster the growth of any banking system. The *Marwari* or other firms were not attracted to these areas. Neither the people had any savings to keep in safe custody while their needs for credit were met by professional money-lenders hailing from other districts and used to live in the nearby towns and business centres.

(b) GENERAL CREDIT FACILITIES :

The Rural Economic Survey of the Karbi Anglong reveals that both in the Karbi and non-Karbi villages of the district, credit was obtained only from money-lenders or friends and relatives and retail dealers while credit facilities from Co-operatives or Commercial Banks hardly existed. The professional and semi-professional money-lenders played the role of the predominant financier in the district. The Co-operative Credit Societies were started during the Second Plan Period and two branches of the State Bank of India opened recently at Diphu and Haflong have ushered in a new vista in this backward district providing additional cheap credit facilities.

Rural indebtedness : For dearth of materials it is not possible to assess the extent of rural indebtedness in the district as a whole. In the past there was no attempt in this regard in the areas constituting the erstwhile district which came into being after Independence. The Assam Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee 1929-30 did not extend its

operation to these areas. The Rural Economic Survey 1948-49 was conducted only in the Karbi Anglong and as such it does not give a total picture of rural indebtedness. It concludes : "Of the 415 sample families as many as 199 or 47.95 per cent were debt free families, the average debt per family worked out at Rs.43.3 and the average debt per indebted family at Rs.83.2. The percentage of debt-free families was higher (52.12 per cent) in the non-Karbi villages than in the Karbi village (36.11 per cent). Debt in kind constituted 30.93 per cent and 14.29 per cent of the total debt in the Karbi and non-Karbi villages respectively. Of the total money debt, secured debt amounted to 54.69 per cent in the Karbi villages and 5.54 per cent in the non-Karbi villages."¹ From the findings of the sample survey, it is seen that the percentage of indebted families to the families in the sample was higher in the Karbi villages (63.9 per cent) than in the non-Karbi villages (48.9 per cent).² On the contrary, the volume of debt in the Karbi villages was lower than that in the non-Karbi villages. The causes for higher percentage of indebtedness, secured money debt and debt in kind in the Karbi villages are attributed to their migratory habit, insufficiency of agricultural produce to meet their annual requirements as well as improvident habits of drinking rice beer. The source from which they obtain cash loans is generally the money-lenders, majority of whom are non-Karbhis and outsiders who do not lend out money to the Karbi people without mortgage or security, their personal security being less assured due to their migratory habit. In the Karbi villages even short term loans are charged with interest to the extent of 20 per cent or more. Thus, at the time of the survey, 89 per cent of the loans in the Karbi villages as against 25 per cent in the non-Karbi villages bore interest above 20 per cent. The burden of debt generally fall upon the small owner cultivators in the Karbi villages and upon the landless workers in the Non-Karbi villages.

Another survey was conducted in 1958 in the Mohindijua area of the district. It says : "The average debt per family was worked out at Rs.29.27 and that per indebted family at Rs.168.65. The average debt for the Kachari families was Rs.24.39 and for Karbi families was Rs.35.14."³ These sample surveys point out to the short term and unproductive nature of the bulk of the debts incurred in the sample villages. The percentage of the debts outstanding for more than one year is very negligible as the most of the loans are generally settled in full after the harvest. Debt incurred in connection with scarcity and

failure of crops as revealed by the Karbi Anglong sample survey accounted for 88.81 per cent, and 16.16 per cent of the total debts in the Karbi and non-Karbi villages respectively. On the other hand, marriage, funeral, *sraddha* and other social ceremonies and repayment of old debt together accounted for 41.67 per cent of the secured and 12.35 per cent of the unsecured money debt in the non-Karbi villages against 3.75 per cent and 9.39 per cent respectively in the Karbi villages. The indebtedness would have been more pronouncing during the sample survey period if other credit facilities such as co-operative banks or commercial banks would have existed in addition to the professional and semi-professional money-lenders financing about 75.28 per cent and 56.68 per cent of the total debt in the Karbi and non-Karbi villages respectively.

We have no data to assess the extent of rural indebtedness during the period under review in the North Cachar Hills, in which similar indebtedness would have prevailed.

It is only after 1960 that the Co-operative Rural Credit Movement began to gain momentum in this district and by the end of 1968, the number of credit societies stood at 193 with a total outstanding loan of Rs.230,000.00. During 1967-68, these credit societies advanced a total loan of Rs.75,000.00 in the Karbi Anglong alone whereas recovered Rs.30,000.00 only in the whole district. This shows how the co-operative credit soon ran into huge arrears adding a big slice to the extent of rural indebtedness. This will be further inflated along with the expansion of commercial banking facilities.

As to urban indebtedness nothing can be said precisely for want of data authenticated by any socio-economic survey in the two towns of the Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills, where the growth of towns is only a recent phenomenon. However, it may be said that the growth of industry, business, trade and commerce and rising cost of living due to increasing prices, have resulted in the necessity of increasing credit needs of the urban people who as a matter of fact, in absence of cheap credit facilities other than those available in the rural areas have to depend largely on the professional money-lenders doing a lot of business at an exorbitant rate of interest and on retail-dealers for purchase on credit. In addition, the wholesale-dealers often extend their business by sale on credit basis. Banking facilities are yet to grow up. Only two branches of the State Bank of India have recently been opened at Diphu and Haflong mainly to cater to the needs of treasury business. Some industrialists and business concerns have also obtained loans from the Government.

1. *A Survey of the Rural Economic Conditions in Mikir Hills, 1948-49*, p. 74

2. P. C. Goswami : *The Economic Development of Assam, 1963*, p. 61.

3. *Report on Socio-Economic Conditions of the People of Mohindijua Area in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District*, p. 13

The role of private money-lenders : It is already shown how the money-lenders act as the preponderate credit financier in the rural areas of the district as elsewhere in the State. According to the sample survey of the Karbi Anglong, the professional and semi-professional money-lenders financed about 75.28 per cent and 56.68 per cent of the total borrowed amount in the Karbi and Non-Karbi villages respectively and they charged very exorbitant rates of interest varying from 20 to 200 per cent per annum. The money-lenders in absence of other alternative sources of credit in the district enjoy a privileged position in the credit business with their ready money and the people hardly can escape from being a prey of their exploitation. Extortions of interest by the money-lenders, particularly the *Kabuliwallas*, often take place. The number of professional money-lenders in the district cannot be ascertained for want of data. It is also difficult to say whether there is any indigenous money-lenders among the unsophisticated tribal folk. For the fear of being exposed to humiliation and control by laws and regulations under various money lending acts, nobody likes to indentify himself as a money-lender. Notwithstanding this, the people when in need of credit know whom to approach. The only perceptible business of money lending is done by the *Kabuliwallas* who move from place to place in course of business. They provide no scope to assess the nature and volume of their transaction. It may, however, be said that the bulk of the money-lenders in the district are generally non-tribals and outsiders. With a view to control their business the Karbi Anglong District Council passed the Mikir Hills (Money lending by Non-tribals) Regulation, 1953 and Rules, 1955.

Rate of Interest : The rate of interest charged by the money-lenders varies between 20 per cent and 200 per cent, and 89 per cent of the total debt in the Karbi villages and 25 per cent in the non-Karbi villages bear interest above 20 per cent.⁴ It is difficult to calculate the rates of interest on loans in kind or in cash which are issued on condition of selling the crop after harvest to the creditor. The rates of interest of such loans calculated in money value ranges from 50 per cent to 200 per cent. The *Kabuliwallas*, besides charging exorbitant rates of interest, often resort to extortions in collecting the interest monthly or annually on the principal sum. On the other hand, the loanees do not get the principal amount of loan, because *Kabuliwallas*, as their usual practice, deduct interest for the first month or year in advance from the principal amount of loan and pay only the balance to the loanee.

The rates of interest of loans issued by the Industries Department, Co-operative Credit Societies etc. vary between 4 per cent and 7½ per

cent. Such loans are now in the initial stage in this district and can be availed through a complex procedure because of which the money-lenders retain their predominant hold upon the simple tribal folk.

Joint-Stock Banks : There is no joint-stock commercial bank incorporated either in the Karbi Anglong or in the North Cachar Hills. Even branches of such banks are precariously absent in both the subdivisions (now districts) except two branches of the State Bank of India recently opened at Diphu and Haflong. The details of the business of these two branches are not yet available. Another branch of the State Bank of India has been opened at Bokajan and it is purely meant for the transactions of the Cement Factory there. "The Lead Bank Scheme" introduced by the Reserve Bank of India on 1st December, 1969 aims at a co-ordinated programme for setting up adequate banking facilities in the underbanked districts of the country. Under this scheme the sub-districts are allotted to the State Bank group (State Bank and its 7 subsidiaries), the 14 nationalised banks and 2 other Indian Banks. A Lead Bank is responsible for taking leading role in surveying the credit needs, development of banking and extension of credit facilities in the district allotted to it. The United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district along with other hill districts has been allotted to the State Bank of India. It is expected that banking facilities will develop in this district when the 'Lead Bank Scheme' will gather momentum.

Co-operative Credit Societies and Banks : At the end of 1968, the total number of co-operative credit societies stood at 212 in the district—193 were Primary Agricultural Credit Societies and 19 Primary Non-Agricultural Credit Societies. The Karbi Anglong had 67 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies and 15 Primary Non-Agricultural Credit Societies against North Cachar Hills having 38 and 4 respectively. This shows that the North Cachar Hills lags still far behind the Karbi Anglong in respect of development of co-operative credit societies.

Co-operative Banks such as Central Bank, Land Mortgage Bank etc. have recently been established in this district. Prior to this the societies of this district were financed by the Nowgong Central Co-operative Bank with financial assistance from the Assam Co-operative Apex Bank, Shillong, which now directly finance them.

It will not be inappropriate to show a brief history of the co-operative movement before dealing with the details of the co-operative credit societies of this district. The district was formed only after Independence with areas from Nowgong, Sibsagar, United Khasi and Jaintia

4. P. C. Goswami : *The Economic Development of Assam*, 1963, p. 63

Hills and Cachar districts and prior to it, the impact of the co-operative movement was hardly felt in these areas under their parent districts. However, to tide over food shortages after the Second World War, the co-operative movement was introduced in 1944 in the Karbi Anglong portion of the Nowgong district by organising three Consumers Co-operative Stores in Duarbagari, Baithalangso and Parakhowa for distribution of controlled goods, but immediately after decontrol, these stores ceased to function. In 1949, seven trading societies were started in different places under the jurisdiction of parent districts to undertake trading business of controlled commodities. Along with the withdrawal of the control over commodities these societies had also to suspend their operation.

Soon after the formation of the erstwhile United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district, attempts were made to expand the co-operative movement in the district but the absence of the source of credit within the jurisdiction of the district and inadequacy of credit supply stood in the way. To remove the difficulty the Mikir Hills Central Banking Union Ltd. was organised and registered but it did not start its functioning. The credit movement also failed to have rooted in the district. In absence of credit societies, Government issued under a special scheme loans of Rs.82,800.00 to 9 trading societies during 1954-56 for issuing loans to the poor backward members for amelioration of their economic conditions. Some societies, however, utilised the amount of loan in their business. The credit movement received momentum in the district after the establishment of the office of the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies at Diphu in 1956. Attempts were made to organise Agricultural Credit Societies with unlimited liabilities, the first of its kind being the Dimacha Rindan Samabai Samiti registered on 15.9.56. But the progress of such societies was very tardy. There being no financing bank in the district these societies received agricultural loans from the Nowgong Central Co-operative Bank financed by the Assam Co-operative Apex Bank, Shillong with financial assistance from the Reserve Bank of India. Later on the Assam Co-operative Apex Bank came forward to finance the Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies of the district through its branches at Nowgong, Golaghat and Silchar. Since then the number of credit societies both agricultural and non-agricultural began to grow up rapidly. By the end of 1968, the number of primary agricultural credit societies increased to 193 in the district, 155 in Karbi Anglong and 38 in North Cachar Hills while primary non-agricultural credit societies increased to 19 only, 15 in Karbi Anglong and 4 in North Cachar Hills. The structure of these credit societies was rationalised on the basis of the Departmental programme of rationalisation of credit

structure initiated during the middle of the Third Five Year Plan, stress was given on the viability of the societies and liquidation of dormant ones. In order to gear up agricultural production, rural credit was made production oriented and the crop loan system was introduced.

The non-credit aspect of the movement already mentioned, preceded the credit aspect in this district. During 1955-60, a few multipurpose co-operative societies were organised. Such societies besides dealing with other business were engaged in paddy procurement. One Cotton Ginning Mill was started during this period. This non-credit aspect of the movement was assigned a wider range of activities during the Third Plan Period. All types of societies such as marketing societies, weaving societies, fishery co-operatives, farming co-operatives etc. were organised in the district. Notable achievements of this period were the two rice mills for Howraghat-Tarabasa Multipurpose Co-operative Society organised during 1955-60 and Langhin-Dokmoka Multipurpose Co-operative Society organised during 1960-65. Mention may be made that the Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society shouldered the tremendous responsibility of monopoly paddy procurement through the co-operative societies. Under the "Hills Co-operative Development scheme" initiated during 1965-70, 3 sub-area multipurpose co-operative societies with bigger area of operation were organised in this district. Some societies are also affiliated to each of them. These societies, besides doing other business, deal in the credit business also. Thus the co-operative movement rapidly expanded during recent years only.

Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies : It is already pointed out that the credit movement started in the district during the Second Five Year Plan only. During 1958-59, the number of Agricultural credit societies grew up to 54 only including 3 large-sized and 51 small sized with total membership of 1,703. The Small-sized Agricultural Credit Societies advanced a total credit of Rs.101,355 and recovered Rs. 72,039 during the year. In 1960-61, the total number of Primary Credit Societies increased to 130 with total membership of 3,727. Short-term loans advanced by these societies during the year amounted to Rs.0.67 lakhs. These show the progressive trend of the credit movement in the district as a whole.

Thus, by the end of June, 1968, the number of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies increased to 193 with total membership of 6,379 and had a total working capital of Rs.4,41,000.00 (including paid-up capital of Rs.1,36,000.00 and borrowings of Rs.1,99,000.00) and an out-

standing loan of Rs.2,30,000.00. During 1967-68, loans advanced and loans recovered by these credit societies amounted to Rs.75,000.00 and Rs.30,000.00 respectively. The operation of the working societies shows that during the year the majority of them numbering 90 underwent losses amounting to Rs.11,000.00 against 45 making profit of Rs.22,000.00. Thus on the balance the credit societies maintained a satisfactory trend in the district. But the progress of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies in the North Cachar Hills is comparatively slower and less satisfactory than in the Karbi Anglong, their number having increased to only 38 by 1968 and having incurred loss in the balance during 1967-68.

Primary Non-Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies : This aspect of the credit movement in the district is of very recent growth and by 1968 only 19 Primary Non-Agricultural Credit Societies came to be registered, 15 in the Karbi Anglong and only 4 in the North Cachar Hills with total membership of 1,180. Their working capital amounted to Rs.60,000.00 (including Rs.17,000.00 paid up capital and Rs.25,000.00 borrowings). On the other hand, the outstanding loan incurred by these societies amounted to Rs.21,000.00 by that year. During 1967-68, loans advanced and loans recovered by the societies in the Karbi Anglong amounted to Rs.6,000.00 and Rs.1,000.00 respectively. Among the societies working during the year 9 incurred loss and only 1 made profit. In this respect also the North Cachar Hills lagged far behind the Karbi Anglong.⁵

The following table shows the position of the credit and other societies in the North Cachar Hills since the First Five Year Plan.⁶

Period	No. of Societies organised:		No. societies liquidated		No. of societies at end of plan		No. of members at the end of plan	
	Credit	Other	Credit	Other	Credit	Other	Credit	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
50-51/55-56	4	4	Nil	3	4	4	95	116
56-57/60-61	27	12	4	1	27	12	562	402
61-62/65-66	4	8	Nil	1	4	8	897	643
66-67/	6	2	Nil	Nil	6	2	920	897
67-68/-	2	4	1	Nil	2	4	976	1,080
68-69/	Nil	Nil	2	1	Nil	Nil	945	1,106
69-70/	Nil	1	2	1	Nil	1	913	1,445
70-71/	6	1	Nil	Nil	6	1	941	1,672
71-72	9	5	Nil	Nil	9	5	1,293	1,853
72-73	7	2	Nil	Nil	7	2	1,364	1,868

5. Figures taken from *Statistical Abstract of Assam, 1960-60* pp. 198-201 ; *Census of India, Vol. III, Assam, Part I-A, General Report*, p. 396 and *Co-operation in Assam, 1950-51 to 1967-68* ; *Statistical Hand Book of Assam, 1970*, pp 51-54.

6. Sub-divisional Deputy Co-operative Officer, N. C. Hills Haflong.

	Share amount		Loan advanced		Loan outstanding	
	Credit Rs.	Other Rs.	Credit Rs.	Other Rs.	Credit Rs.	Other Rs.
	10	11	12	13	14	15
50-51/55-56			Not available.			
56-57/60-61	18,940/-	58,250/-	56,165/-	Nil	Nil	Nil
61-62/65-66	25,350/-	72,850/-	16,650/-	26,200/-	43,026/-	23,960/-
66-67/	26,590/-	79,600/-	Nil	Nil	42,796/-	21,740/-
67-68/	29,450/-	81,500/-	10,500/-	Nil	50,404/-	21,205/-
68-69/	32,500/-	92,000/-	22,422/-	Nil	62,275/-	20,980/-
69-70/	33,335/-	98,000/-	Nil	5,000/-	61,984/-	24,030/-
70-71/	36,486/-	1,02,000/-	Nil	15,000/-	60,604/-	36,180/-
71-72/	47,062/-	1,30,510/-	4,500/-	Nil	48,439/-	32,519/-
72-73/	48,600/-	1,67,350/-	Nil	44,500/-	41,834/-	77,019/-

(c) GENERAL AND LIFE INSURANCE :

No Insurance Company had any office in the district. The Life Insurance business is conducted in the Karbi Anglong by two Development officers at Diphu and Howraghat under the Nowgong Branch Office and in the North Cachar Hills by a Development officer at Haflong under the Silchar Branch Office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the Divisional office of it being situated at Gauhati. In 1959, only 416 numbers of policies with sum assured amounting to Rs.10,34,000 were issued in the district. The following shows the progress of life insurance business in subsequent years in both subdivisions (now districts).

Karbi Anglong.

Items	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
No. of policies issued.	190	179	180	164	170
Sum assured (Rs.in thousand)	1,008.5	1,042.5	1,272.5	1,128	1,396
Total premia collected (Rs. in thousand)	129	139	147	156	167

North Cachar Hills

Items	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
No. of policies issued	148	153	260
Sum assured (in lakhs)	12.15	14.14	20.51
Total premia collected (in Lakhs).	0.40	0.60	1.00

(d) STATE ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT :

Due to the fact that this district lags far behind other districts of Assam in respect of industrialisation which is yet to make impact upon the agriculture-minded unsophisticated tribal people, various types of State assistance to industrial development have gone unavailed. To induce the growth of industry in the private sector the Government provides with financial assistance in the form of grants, subsidies and loans towards working capital, purchase of machineries, implements and raw materials and construction of buildings and also facilities for procuring such items on higher purchase basis. Besides, the Government also participates in subscribing share capital. The State Bank and other 14 nationalised Banks also now advance industrial loans. But unfortunately banking facilities are not yet developed in this district. The maximum State assistance availed in this district goes to the co-operative sector in which the Cotton Ginning Mill at Diphu has so far received Rs.20,000.00 as share capital grant, Rs.2,54,740.00 as grant for purchase of machineries and building construction and Rs.1,50,000.00 as working capital loans and two rice mills at Howraghat and Langhin Dokmoka under the respective marketing societies have received financial assistance of Rs.99,000.00 each. The weaving co-operatives receive financial help and material help in the shape of accessories as well as guidance and training facilities provided by the Weaving Department and the Co-operative Department of the Government of Assam. The Industries Department runs on two Carpentry Production Centres at Diphu and Maibong and one Toy making centre at Diphu to train up local tribal youth in these trades.

B. TRADE AND COMMERCE :

(a) **Course of Trade** : It is hardly necessary to say that trade and commerce was not of any importance in the past in the sparsely popula-

ted constituent areas of this hill district where there were no towns or industry of any size. The primitive pattern of the tribal economy might have not warranted the growth of internal trade in the hills while some external trade with the neighbouring people was done in the bordering markets in the plains. Pretty *mahajans* from the plains frequently visited the hills and made a considerable business in forest products such as bamboo, cane and timber in the form of logs and posts having arranged into a raft known as *bhur* or *mar* carried down through the hill streams, to important *ghats* in the plains for sale. The growth of the tea industry and the opening of the Railway line and the South Trunk Road touching some points of the district facilitated some external trade in respect of import of necessities required particularly for the extra growth of outsider-population. But the tribal mode of living in the hill tracts did not materially change to effect some exportable surplus of agricultural products. While diffusion of advanced civilisation to the tribal people was slow. However, the tribal people used to come down from the hills to the weekly or biweekly '*hats*' or markets in the nearby plains and made some transactions. The fact that most of these trade centres now form part of the district helps the growth of both external and internal trade. Besides, growth of towns such as Diphu and Haflong and growth of industries like the Cement Factory at Bokajan and other development activities have now enhanced the importance of trade and commerce in all directions.

The internal trade is done to a great extent in the weekly and bi-weekly markets situated mostly in the plain areas where the villagers assemble to dispose of their surplus and collect their requirements. The village *mahajans*, itinerants and wholesale traders also do a lot of business in these markets which serve as centres for distribution of agricultural products from surplus areas to deficit areas and also of imported goods. Generally wholesale business is done in the two towns of Diphu and Haflong which also serve as retail-sale centres in local and imported goods, besides the retail shops.

Exports and imports : As already mentioned, the export trade is not of much importance in this agricultural district. Diversity of climatic condition results in diversity of production. The food products having demand for local consumption are transported to deficit areas from surplus areas within the district. The main agricultural products exported outside the district are paddy, cotton, sugarcane, jute, mustard seeds, castor seeds, maize, ginger and fruits such as orange and pineapple.

The estimated production of the three types of paddy during 1970-71 in the United district was 90,563 tonnes, the main producing centres being Howraghat, Rongkhang and Bokajan wherefrom paddy was exported to the neighbouring districts of Nowgong and Sibsagar. But now restriction has been imposed on exporting paddy outside the district as a part of procurement policy of Government. Another important food crop is maize, the estimated production being 1,919 tonnes in 1970-71.

In a normal year, about 1000 M. tonnes of maize are exported to Bihar and other places, the value of which would be about 1.8 lakhs. Cotton is the most important cash crop of the district, the estimated production being 1,621 bales in 1970-71 out of 2,011 bales in the whole of Assam. Previous to the start of the co-operative Gining Mill at Diphu, the whole of the cotton produce was exported outside the district for ginning and then exported to Calcutta. The cotton grown in Karbi Anglong is known as *commilla cotton* which has great demand in the world market. Another important exported product of the district is jute, the estimated production being 11,157 bales in 1970-71 and almost the entire produce except a little quantity for local use is exported outside the district to find the Calcutta jute market. The quantity of jute exported to the Nowgong district finds way to the Jute Mill at Silghat. Mention may be made of sugarcane also which is produced in the plain areas of the district particularly in Bokajan area, the estimated production being 11,995 tonnes in 1970-71. In a normal year, about 5 to 6 thousand tonnes of dressed canes are exported to the Dergaon Co-operative Sugar Mill, the rest being locally used in preparing *gur*. Other agricultural products such as rape and mustard, sesamum, tobacco, castor seeds, linseeds, which are produced in small quantities have not much importance in export trade. Among fruits, oranges and pineapples have some importance in the export trade. In a normal season, about 337 tonnes of oranges and 157 tonnes of pineapples are exported to Calcutta by private traders. Among spices, ginger is commercially grown in the North Cachar Hills wherefrom about 266 tonnes of ginger are exported in a normal year to Calcutta and Lucknow.⁷ According to the Supply Department at Diphu the total amount involved on the annual transaction of paddy maize, sesamum, mustard seeds, jute and cotton would be more than Rs. 5 millions.

Apart from these, forest products such as timber, bamboo, cane, etc., are also exported outside the district. Coal is mined in the collieries of Kailajan and Silbhetta and whole of it is exported outside the district.

⁷ Production figures are used from *Statistical Hand Book Assam*, 1971 pp. 32-39.

The main items of imports are rice and pulses. Rice to the extent of 10,000 Qtls. and pulses to the extent of 12,000 Qtls. are annually imported to the district. In addition to these items, sufficient quantities of wheat and wheat products, salt, sugar, mustard oil, cement, iron materials, gold, bell and brass-metals, C.I. Sheets, electrical goods, glass, medicines, cloths and yarns, kerosene oil, petrol, soaps, match boxes, vegetable *ghee*, tinned food, tea leaves etc., are annually imported to meet the demands of the consumers of the entire district.

Salt is imported from Calcutta and some of the other items except kerosene and petrol are imported from Bihar. The following table shows the import of wheat to this district during 1969-70.

		Atta		Flour		Suji
1969	..	2400	..	1200	..	600
1970	..	2400	..	1200	..	600

(b) TRADE CENTRES :

Centres of wholesale business : The main centres of trade in the Karbi Anglong are Diphu, Howraghat and Bokajan ; Diphu being the trade headquarter. The wholesalers and other important traders operate from this town and in co-operation with their sub-agents and retailers in other trade centres. Diphu became prominent trade centre after it was raised to the district headquarters in 1951. It is well connected by road and rail with important trade centres of other districts. It is now linked with Nowgong by State Transport Service. It is connected with Bokajan by road and rail and with Howraghat by road only. Thus the importance of Diphu as a trade centre has been gradually increasing. Bokajan besides being a rail station is also connected by the National Highway No. 39 with trade centres outside the district. Howraghat is situated at a distance of 16 Kms. from Hojai Railway station and 70 Kms. from Diphu. These centres have their main trade relations with Lumding, Hojai, Nowgong, Golaghat and Nagaland. Most of the shops are owned by *Marwari* traders and *Nepalis* who conduct both the export and import trade, besides conducting internal trade. Some other trade centres in the Karbi Anglong are Bokolia, Dillai, Dengaon, Dokmoka, Rongkhang, Baithalangso and Lenghin.

In the N. C. Hills the main centres of trade are Haflong and Maibong. Since it is now a separate district, Haflong is the district head-

quarter of trade. But the growth of these trade centres has been handicapped by communication bottleneck which has also checked the growth of trade and commerce as well as other trade centres. The only means of communication is the railway that connects these trade centres with Lumding and Silchar. However, fair weather roads connect Haflong with Silchar, Lumding, Shillong and Jowai.

Wholesale business is generally done in the trade headquarters of Diphu and Haflong, wherefrom goods are transported to other trade centres for distribution to retailers in different trade centres and trading villages. Side by side, retail business is done by various retail dealers who distribute different consumer goods to the consumers. Some wholesale business is also done in Howraghat and Bokajan. Wholesale transactions are also done in some important weekly markets which are visited by wholesale dealers from the important trade centres.

The other trade centres mentioned above are the important retail trade centres. A number of shops dealing in retail business in various items of consumer goods such as grocery, stationery and other wares are growing up in these centres. In addition, there is in almost every village a small retail shop dealing in groceries. Such small shop-keepers in remote areas generally purchase goods in small quantities at some concessional rates from the big retailers in the nearest trade centres and therefore, they charge a bit higher prices for their goods. On the other hand difficulty of communication and their small means stand in the way of their direct contact with wholesalers in the towns. Such village shopkeepers and the dealers in the retail centres do a lot of business in the village agricultural commodities. Price stipulation is generally done in giving loans and selling goods on credit to be sold immediately after harvest. Big retailers in the retail trade centres generally acts as agents of wholesalers in the town in distributing various goods to the consumers and in collecting their surplus produce through their sub-agents, the village shopkeepers.

Markets : The markets or *hats* may be classified as primary markets and the wholesale trade centres as the secondary or terminal markets. The markets in different places generally sit on the weekend on different days for mobilisation of goods from area to area to the convenience of the villagers. A great deal of business both wholesale and retail is done in these markets where villagers assemble to dispose of this surplus produce and collect their requirements. The petty traders who generally deal in mobile business regularly attend the weekly

markets with their wares such as cotton goods, cloths and yarns, oil, salt, pulses, spices, toilets, cosmetics, utensils etc. The wholesale dealers from the towns as afore-said come to collect the agricultural produce such as paddy, jute, maize, mustard seeds etc., for the purpose of export. Thus, the markets on which the villagers generally depend for their daily necessities also serve as centres for distribution of surplus produce from surplus areas to deficit areas.

In the Karbi Anglong, Diphu, Howraghat, Langhin, Bokajan, Baithalangso, Dokmoka and Bokulia are important markets for paddy, rice (hand and *dhenki* pounded) jute, mustard seeds, *til*, maize and cotton. Large scale cattle business takes place in Howraghat market.

In the North Cachar Hills the important markets are held at Haflong, Langting Mahur and Maibong. Products like *til*, cotton, ginger, chillies, orange, pineapple etc. are the main attractions of these markets. The table below shows the total turnover of different commodities in these markets.

Name of Market	M. seed	Paddy	Rice	Maize	Cotton	Til	Jute	Orange	Pine-apple	Ginger.
Diphu.	5,000.00	5,000.00	12,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	—	—	—
Howraghat.	1,000.00	25,000.00	15,000.00	—	200.00	150.00	2,000.00	—	—	—
Bokulia.	250.00	3,000.00	400.00	—	500.00	250.00	5,000.00	—	—	—
Dokmoka.	300.00	25,000.00	3,000.00	—	—	200.00	—	—	—	—
Langhin.	3,000.00	20,000.00	5,000.00	—	—	200.00	500.00	—	—	—
Dillai.	400.00	150.00	—	3,000.00	500.00	400.00	200.00	—	—	—
Bokajan.	2,600.00	18,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00	500.00	200.00	500.00	—	—	—
Haflong.	—	—	2,000.00	200.00	500.00	300.00	—	—	—	—
Mailbong.	500.00	—	1,000.00	200.00	4,000.00	300.00	—	—	—	—
Langting.	500.00	—	5,000.00	200.00	200.00	500.00	—	—	—	—
Mahur.	—	—	—	200.00	200.00	—	—	—	—	—
									50,000.00 MP	50,000 qtls. MP

Source—Assistant Agricultural Marketing Officer, Diphu.

Markets are generally established near railway stations, junction of roads, river sides, and thickly populated areas. In N. C. Hills, all markets are situated near railway stations except Garampani which is newly established market on the road side of Jawai-Badarpur road. In Karbi Anglong ; Diphu, Bokajan, Dhansiri and Borpathar are situated near railway stations & other either on road side or on river side. All important markets have been connected by motorable roads except the markets of Amri Dev-Block & Block I Mauzas. The construction of road in these areas are also under progress. In the high land bridle paths are the main link with the feeder roads with the result that produce is often carried by head loads to the markets.

In the district primary markets are owned and managed by the District Council authorities. Diphu and Haflong town markets are, however, owned and managed by respective town committees of Haflong and Diphu. There is scope for improvement of these markets in regard to market yard, stalls, etc.

Most of the market do not have permanent or even semi-permanent structures and therefore, are held under open air. What is more, the conditions of these markets having structures of thatched roofs over bamboo posts are deplorable. The markets do not provide the ordinary amenities for conducting trade activities. Due to lack of market information to the growers buying and selling activities are controlled by visiting traders. The surplus agricultural produces are purchased by these merchants at very low prices while their daily necessities such as salt, matches, spices, tobacco, cloths, food articles etc. are sold in the markets at exorbitantly high prices especially in the interior markets. It is also observed that the merchants take resort to various other unscrupulous trading practices such as use of false weights, unwarranted deductions and allowances etc. These circumstances tell heavily upon the economic life of the rural people in the district.

Most of the producing areas are not properly connected with the important markets with the result that the producers are compelled to dispose of their products to the itinerant merchants at a price dictated by the purchaser.

A list of the markets both rural and urban under different classifications along with their respective days of sitting is given in an appendix to this chapter.

(c) CO-OPERATION IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE :

There is co-operation and good understanding between wholesale and retail traders in the district. Market is dominated by the whole-

salers who disseminate trade news to the retailers. There is, however, no fixed area in respect of wholesale and retail trade. As already pointed out, wholesale business is done side by side retail business in the trade centres as well as in the weekly markets. But, the wholesalers generally reside in the trade headquarters of Diphu and Haflong wherefrom they operate the business and control the markets. These traders are mainly *Marwaris*, *Bengalis* and a few up country men.

The nature of cooperation between wholesale and retail-sale depends on the nature of business and volume of transactions and it differs from place to place. Financial cooperation depends upon reliability of the retailers whom the wholesalers help with cash and goods on credit for running the business. It is worthy to mention that both in wholesale and retail trade, the number of Karbis is almost nil.

(d) STATE TRADING :

State Trading in food grains : With a view to arrest shortfalls of food production mainly paddy and consequent black marketing and rising prices, Government of Assam took up the scheme of State Trading in paddy in 1959 and implemented it by appointing the Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society as the monopoly agent for procuring paddy through its branch Co-operative Marketing Societies in different districts. Till 1960 there were only three Marketing Societies in the entire district viz., (1) Howraghat Tarabasa C.M.S. Ltd., (2) Baithalangso M.C.S. Ltd. and (3) East Mikir Hills M.C.S. Ltd. and of these Howraghat Tarabasa C.M.S. Ltd. functioned as one of the best societies in Assam procuring 5 lakh *maunds* of paddy in a year. Government fixed the price of paddy per *maund* in order to give a fair price to the producers for their product. However, in 1964 Government relaxed the policy and allowed millers to procure paddy side by side the Marketing societies. The monopoly procurement of paddy was restored again to the Apex Marketing Society in 1965 and since then it has been functioning as the monopoly agent of paddy procurement except for a brief period of 1966-67, in which year the Food Corporation of India obtained monopoly procurement of paddy. In this district 8 Primary Marketing Societies were functioning during 1966-67, six in the Karbi Anglong and two in the North Cachar Hills. In addition to these societies, 4 sub-area Co-operative Marketing Societies organised in the district during 1965-70 under the Hill Development Scheme, have also been functioning in collaboration with the Apex Marketing Society in carrying out the state trading programme. About 30 small sized service co-operatives organised under

these sub-area Marketing Societies also assist in the paddy procurement. Thus the Marketing Societies with the help of the service co-operatives procured the following quantities of paddy during 1958-59 to 1965-66 in the united district.⁸

Year	Quantities of paddy procured.
1958-59	2,48,307 <i>maunds</i> .
1959-60	5,43,633 „
1960-61	4,93,751 „
1961-62	2,37,460 „
1962-63	4,13,895 „
1963-64	8,70,376 „
1964-65	7,99,138 „
1965-66	2,52,345 Quintals.

During 1966-67, the value of purchases made by the Marketing societies of the district amounted to Rs.76,95,308/- of which the Karbi Anglong shared Rs.76,86,390.00 and the North Cachar Hills Rs.8918.00. The societies in the Karbi Anglong earned commission of Rs.4,52,530.00 during the year. The procurement price of paddy is fixed by the Government of Assam with a view to give a fair price to the producers for their produce. This price has been revised upward from time to time keeping parity with the general increase in prices. The current (1974) procurement price of paddy is Rs.70.00 per quintal. The number of godowns constructed by the Marketing Societies for storage of paddy in the district increased after 1967. Government provides with grants-in-aid and loans for construction of godowns. Besides, the Assam State Warehousing Corporation has recently constructed a godown at Howraghat for storage of paddy, jute, *til*, mustard seeds etc., on payment of hiring charge @ 15 paise per quintal per month.

Measures were also taken to control the rising prices of various essential articles including C.I. sheets, cement etc. Prices of essential food articles were fixed by Government to regulate the trade on the basis of Assam Food Grain (Licensing and Control) Orders, 1961, as amended from time to time. Fair price shops were opened to distribute the food articles at controlled prices to the customers under the super-

8. District Hand Book of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills by U. N. Bordoloi 1972, p. 84.

vision of the Supply Department which made the allotment of the controlled goods to the fair-price shops which again lifted their quotas from the licensed wholesalers. Till 1957 rice was supplied to the fair-price shops by Central Government from their Central Depot established in some parts of the State. The policy of supplying rice to the fair-price shops has undergone changes from time to time. After the state trading in paddy came into operation, the wholesalers procured rice from the government monopoly agents as per allotment made by the Director of Supply. The District Supply Authority fixed the wholesale and retail price and then issued rice to the fair-price shops to lift from the wholesalers. Rice and other controlled food articles were also issued to the approved retailers for issuing to the consumers. The system is still in vogue but the wholesale trade in rice has now been entrusted to the Wholesale Co-operative Marketing Societies instead of licensed wholeseller. The number of fair-price shops all over the district exceeds 170 by now.

(c) **CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION OR TRADE ASSOCIATIONS :**

There is no such association in the district except the Merchants Association, Haflong, the only organisation functioning since 1940 catering to the interest of the merchants and shopkeepers in the North Cachar Hills only.

(f) **WEIGHTS AND MEASURES :**

As in the other districts of Assam, various weights and measures were prevalent in this district. There was, however, no uniformity and accuracy of the old units for which the unsophisticated villagers were often cheated by unscrupulous traders and businessmen. To achieve uniformity in this matter, Government of India passed the standards of Weights and Measures Act., 1956, to introduce the Metric system of weights and measures all over India. Accordingly the Government of Assam passed the Assam Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act., 1958, and adopted the Metric system in phases in different districts.

Prior to the introduction of the Metric system, the units of weights used in trade transactions by the traders for weighing solid and liquid articles were named *seer*, *poaa*, *chatak* and *tolas*. Solid articles such as paddy, rice, mustard seed, pulses and the like were weighed in a scale called the *palla* while liquid articles such as milk, oil etc., were measured by *Sungas* made of bamboo and sometimes tins prepared on the basis of different weights ranging from *seer* to *chatak*. It may be mentioned that

capacity measurement is a usage of the age old indigenous system and the different units of weights is a later infiltration. Specimens of the indigenous capacity measurement can still be found in the rural areas in the shape of *doon* and *pachi*, used in measuring paddy, rice, mustard seeds etc. The bamboo *Sungas* were, besides measuring liquids, also used in carrying and storing water by the Karbi people. In the plain areas, earthen jars such as *Kalah*, *tekeli* etc., used for keeping *gur* (molasses) were counted by their respective measurement in transactions. The *tulachani* is yet another indigenous measuring scale made by indigenous device. The *doon*, made of fine bamboo strips in a conical shape contains 10 *kathas*=5 *seers*, one *seer* is equivalent to 0.93310 kilogram in metric weight (the smaller one 6 *kathas*=3 *seers*), the *pachi* (basket) used generally in transactions contains 1 *pura*=3 *doons*=15 *seers*. A *doon* is called *langkaton* by the Karbis and *rangdon* by the Dimas Kacharis (a *rangdon* contains 3 *seers*).

The system of area measurement was based on *lecha*, *katha*, *bigha* and *pura* in the ascending order i.e., 20 *lechas*=1 *katha*, 5 *kathas*=1 *bigha* and 4 *bighas*=1 *pura*. The linear measurement was in terms of *yabs*, *anguli*, *beget*, *hat*, *kathi*, *nal*, furlong, mile, etc., in the ascending order. Metals like gold are still measured in terms of *rati*, *anna* and *tola*. These systems of weights and measures were prevalent side by side with the English system till the introduction of the Metric system. The area measurements are still in practice.

The English system of weights and measures were generally not used in common transactions. Under the English system liquid capacity was in terms of pint, quart, gallon etc., weights in ounce, pound, ton etc., length in inch, foot, yard, mile etc., and area in squares of the length measurement.

The metric system of weights and measures have been enforced by phases compulsorily through out India since April, 1962. The system connotes the term metre, as the unit of measurement, its equivalent units of weights being kilogram and unit of liquid capacity being litre and based on the decimal account. Conversion tables were published and Inspectors of Weights and Measures were posted to the district, subdivisional headquarters for implementation of the new system. Though the metric system is now in full force, some sections of the people have not been able to acquaint themselves with it. On the other hand, unscrupulous traders and businessmen still use illegal and nonstandard weights and measures. The Inspector is responsible for detection of illegal cases and

verification of weights and measures. As required under the Act, the Inspector at Diphu posted in 1962 and the Inspector at Haflong posted in 1963 started verification and stamping work of weights and measures and other weighing instruments used by the traders in the district since 1965 and for such work the traders are to pay fees to the Department.

Verification and stamping work and collection of fees in the Karbi Anglong since 1965.

Period	Weights	Capacity measures	Length measures	Measuring Instruments	Weighing Instruments	Other	Total fee revenue collected
1965-66	1,731	540	16		125	—	928.75
1966-67	2,884	1,030	323		310	—	2,781.62
1967-68	2,979	1,262	68	24	546	—	5,376.39
1968-69	3,249	1,363	320	18	541	—	10,031.85
1969-70	2,748	1,151	32	19	511	—	9,058.70
1970-71	4,083	1,907	21	29	832	—	11,479.03

In the North Cachar Hills

1965-66	..	..	..	..	..	..	465.25
1966-67	..	..	..	..	..	..	987.70
1967-68	..	..	..	..	..	..	742.60
1968-69	..	..	..	..	..	..	865.90
1969-70	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.00
1970-71	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,204.00

Prosecution under the Act. during the period in the Karbi Anglong.

Period	No. of cases reported	Brought to trial	Acquitted	Imprison- ment	Fine
1965-66	1	—	—	—	—
1966-67	3	3	1	—	200.00
1967-68	5	5	—	—	155.00
1968-69	5	5	4	—	20.00

List of Market.

(a) Primary Markets : (Rural) Karbi Anglong

Name of the Market	Days on which held.
1. Amtreng.	Wednesday
2. Baithalangso.	Tuesday
3. Borthol.	Wednesday.
4. Bokajan.	Saturday.
5. Borpathar.	Sunday.
6. Bokulia.	Tuesday.
7. Balipathar.	Monday.
8. Bhoksong.	Thursday.
9. Centre Bazar.	Monday
10. Dentaghat.	Friday.
11. Donkamokam.	Thursday.
12. Dillai.	Friday.
13. Dhansiri.	Sunday.
14. Dokmoka.	Wednesday.
15. Dengaon.	Tuesday.
16. Deopani.	Saturday.
17. Hidipi.	Tuesday.
18. Japorajan.	Tuesday.
19. Kolonga.	Rotational.
20. Lungijan.	Monday.
21. Langhin Tinaili.	Sunday.
22. Hangsoliet.	Tuesday.
23. Labonghat.	Wednesday.
24. Mohangdijua.	Friday.
25. Parakhowa.	Saturday.
26. Phuloni.	Thursday.
27. Samoguri.	Wednesday.
28. Samelangso.	Thursday.
29. Satgoan.	Friday.
30. Tumpreng.	Monday.
31. Torin Bazar.	Rotational.
32. Tenglijan.	Friday.
33. Uper Taradubi.	Saturday.
34. Umreng.	Rotational.

(b) **Primary Markets (Rural) N.C. Hills District.**

1. Dittakcherra.	..	..	Monday.
2. Garampani.	..	..	Friday.
3. Harangajao.	..	..	Wednesday.
4. Langting.	..	..	Sunday.
5. Mahur.	..	..	Tuesday.
6. Maibong.	..	..	Thursday.

(c) **Secondary wholesale Markets Days on which held.**

1. Howraghat.	..	..	Thursday. Karbi Anglong.
2. Bokajan.	..	..	Sunday.
3. Diphu.	..	..	Wednesday.
4. Haflong.	..	..	Friday. N.C. Hills.

CHAPTER—VII**COMMUNICATIONS.****(a) OLD TIME TRADE ROUTES :**

In olden times, and even up to the time of Independence, there was practically no good or motorable road in the district which is mostly covered by hills. Journeys used to be undertaken along bridle paths and foot tracks. Villages were connected only by these paths. These also served as internal trade routes and commodities were carried by head-loads along them. These bridle and foot paths were formerly maintained by the villagers themselves in their respective areas but later on the Government took the responsibility of maintaining a few important paths.

The District Gazetteer of Cachar mentioned some road links of North Cachar Hills in the following passage : "There is a bridle path from Haflong to the Hot Springs, which is continued through Jowai to Shillong. There are rest houses at the following places: the figures in brackets show the approximate kilometreage from Haflong : Gunjong (26); Derebara (39); Baga (51); Khorungma (65); Hot Springs (84). From Gunjong there is a bridle path to Doiangmukh (68 km), and from Doiangmukh to the Hot Springs (64). There are no rest houses on either of these paths. From Maibong a bridle path runs to Baladhan, 90 km. away, with rest-houses at Guilong (13 kms), Laishung (28 kms), and Hangrum (42 kms). From Laishung a path strikes eastward to the border of the Naga Hills district 34 kms. away".¹ There is now a motorable road from Haflong to Shillong passing through Gunjong, Hot Springs and Jowai.

Like wise there were also some bridle paths or old time routes in the Karbi Anglong. These were Baithalangso-Amtreng (16 kms), Baithalangso-Umbaso (64 kms), Baithalangso-Umpani (61 kms), Baithalangso-Kolonga (19 kms), Lanka-Kheroni-Umkhemi (64 kms), Chapormukh-Amtreng (24 kms), Dharambil-Bongaon (26 km), Lanka-Hawaipur (31 kms).

¹, B. C. Allen : *Assam District Gazetteers*, Vol. I, Cachar, Calcutta, 1905, 111-112.

Daboka-Langlokso (56 kms), Dokmoka-Bokuliaghat (64 kms), Mohindijua-Diphu (26 kms), Mohindijua-Dimapur (66 kms), Longlokso-Goalghat (113 kms), Singhashan-pahar to Bokakhat (48 kms) and Tarapung to Bokakhat (48 kms).

Rivers like the Kopili, Barapani, and Jamuna have also served as important trade routes since the old times. The river Kopili which is navigable by small boats upto Kolanga bazar was an important trade route for carrying up articles like salt, dry fishes, tea leaves and other necessities for the tribal people and sending down cotton, sesamum, mustard seeds, lac and other hill products. The river Barapani was another important trade route connecting important markets like Baithalangso and Amtreng. In some cases commodities were also transported by dug-outs in small streams.

(b) ROAD TRANSPORT :

State And National Highways : There was no good or motorable road in the district prior to its constitution and therefore, much emphasis was given to the construction of roads and bridges in the district during the three Five Year Plans. Perhaps the first road constructed in the district was Shillong-Silchar Road under the Haflong Division of P.W.D. (R & B) which was later on abolished with the completion of the said road. P.W.D. (R & B) Division at Diphu was set up in 1955 with four sub-divisions, two in Karbi Anglong and two in North Cachar Hills. In the later years, Haflong P.W.D. Division was again created with jurisdiction over North Cachar Hills and both the Sub-divisional offices located in North Cachar Hills were transferred to it. The work of buildings, roads and bridges in the areas contiguous to Nowgong district was entrusted by the Government to East and West Divisions of P.W.D. of Nowgong. The total mileage of the roads constructed by the above divisions upto the year of 1964-65 came to 814.35 kms. out of which about 17 kms. were 'Black topped', 338 kms. gravelled and 1½ kms. water-bound and the rest were fair-weather roads. Distribution of road mileage as per sub-divisions came to 415 kms. of roads in Karbi Anglong, and 383 kms. of roads in North Cachar Hills. There is only one National Highway 'Numaligarh-Dimapur Road' (National Highway No. 39) passing through the district. The total mileage of this road is about 116 kms., out of which, only 55 kms. is under the control of Diphu Division. A diversion-road (called diversion of N.H. 39) between Barpathar and Dimapur comprising total mileage of about 85 kms. is under construction. Followings are the important roads in the district.

Table—1
STATEMENT SHOWING THE ROADS IN NORTH
CACHAR HILLS
(1964-65)

Sl. No.	Name of the roads	Total miles
1	2	3
1.	Shillong-Silchar Road	111.50
2.	Jatinga-Jatinga-Lampur Road	4.00
3.	Haflong Feeder Road & Hills Station approach road.	4.40
4.	Haflong Town-fund Road	1.25
5.	Lower Haflong-Waphu Road.	9.20
6.	Mahur-Laisang Road	19.00
7.	Mahur-Maibong-Kalachand Hajadisha Kauladisa Road.	51.25
8.	Khejurband-Langting-Lumding Road (under construction).	47.5
Total		248.20 or 383 kms.

Table 2
STATEMENT SHOWING THE ROADS IN KARBI ANGLONG
(1964-65)

Sl. No.	Name of the Roads.	Total (Miles)
1	2	3
1.	Dimapur-Mohindijua-Dokmoka Road	63.25
2.	Mohindijua-Parakhowa-Doboka Road	8.50
3.	Howraghat-Karkok Road	6.87
4.	Dokmoka-Sonapur Road	9.00
5.	Diphu-Mohindijua Road	9.37
6.	Diphu-Lumding Road	23.50
7.	Road to N.E.S. Headquarters including bridge over Jamuna River at Howraghat	0.63

8.	Bakuliaghat Link Road	0.75
9.	Tumpreng-Dokmoka Road.. ..	7.00
10.	Baithalangso-Kolonga-Kherani	26.00
11.	Numaligarh Dimapur Road, National Highway 30.	34.50
12.	Diversion Road between Borpathar and Dimapur (Division of N.H. 39)	33.12
13.	Baithalangso-Rongpong Road with Diversion to Umbaso	15.00
14.	Kherani-Rongpong-Road (completed 8 miles)	8.00
15.	Diphu Town Road	6.26
16.	Diphu-Dillai Sariahjan Road	6.00
17.	Diversion of Diphu Mohindijua	0.52
Total		258.27 or 415 kms.

The Diphu-Mohindijua road which meets the Dimapur-Mohindijua-Parokhowa-Dokmoka-Dabaka road at a place 16 kms. away from Diphu, makes communication now possible by road to Golaghat sub-division of the Silsagar district on one side and the district of Nowgong on the other. Stage carriages now ply carrying passengers from Diphu to places lying along these two roads. The Diphu-Mohindijua road has also provided facilities for transport of coal from the new colliery just started at a place called Silbheta, 24 miles (38 kms) away from Diphu. The road from Howraghat to Karkok has made the movement and procurement of paddy which is grown in abundance in the region much easier than before. Daily State Transport Service is now available from Nowgong to Diphu and *vice-versa*. The Diphu-Lunding road will provide the missing overland between the North Cachar Hills and the Karbi Anglong when this road is connected to Mahur-Maibong-Kalachand-Kualadisa road. The road from Mahur to Laisong has brought the Zemi Naga areas nearer to the administration. These two roads in the North Cachar Hills are vitally important for the maintenance of law and order in the border areas where Naga gangsters from Nagaland and Tamenglong sub-division of Manipur State commit loot and arson. Security forces deployed for dealing with these anti-social and anti-State elements can now move with speed, which is the essence of successful operations against them. The Jowai-Haflong-Silchar road connects the Jowai sub-division of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the district of Cachar with the North Cachar Hills. This road passes through a picturesque country presenting a panorama of changing vista. State-Transport Buses are plying between Haflong to Shillong and *vice-versa*. The Nelli-Umpai

road has opened up the Amri area to progressive and advanced areas. There is a proposal for extending this road to a place called Musalanchang involving a distance of 25 miles (40 kms). From Musalanchang it will be possible to construct another length of road to meet Shillong near the Polo Field. Survey work is already afoot for finding out an alignment for a road to connect Umpnai with Baithalangso. The Tumpreng-Donkamokam road and the Baithalangso-Kolonga-Kheroni road have provided the convenience of road communication in the areas where no road existed before. These roads have by no means solved the problem of communication covering all the areas where formerly there was no communication in the district. Many road building projects are still in blue prints while others are under construction. However, considering the fact that this district was constituted only 15 Years ago with no roads at all, the progress achieved by different agencies in the building of roads is more than encouraging even by a modest assessment.

Village Roads : The District Councils of both the autonomous districts of the Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills have taken up construction of road in their respective areas since their inception. There are in addition, some other roads in the villages, constructed by villagers from grants received from different agencies, but such roads are not many.

Haflong and Diphu are the only towns in the district which serve as main trade centres and other important trade centres are Borpathar, Bokajan, Dillai, Bokulia, Howraghat, Tumpreng, Kheroni, Baithalangso, Maibong etc. Most of them are on Public Works Department roads. The District Council roads connect the villages in the interior with these trade centres either direct or with Public Works Department roads, that ultimately lead to the trade centres.

The condition of the District Council roads is not fit enough for heavy motor trucks, but over some of them light motor vehicles can ply and over some others only buffalo and bullock carts can move. Work for maintenance of these roads is generally carried out by the District Councils through villages on self-help basis or other agencies when important works are involved. There are 273 numbers of village roads comprising a total length of 2681.44 kms.

Vehicles and Conveyances : Nothing definite can be said about the mode of conveyances in old times. But it is believed that elephants, horses and palanquines were mainly used besides small boats at places. However, these were the conveyances of the kings and nobility and the

commoners had to walk generally on foot if they want to go from place to place. In plain areas of the district, bullock and buffalo carts were used for transportation of goods. In the hills, these were carried by headloads. As most of the hilly streams are not navigable, boats were very rarely used.

Now for personal and private conveyances jeeps are the only means and officers and businessmen who can afford, have their private jeeps for this purpose. Motor trucks are the principal means of transport of goods over long distance routes in the district; for short distances, bullock and buffalo carts serve the purpose for transportation of all kinds of commodities and goods. There is no horse-drawn carts in the district. As to beasts of burden, elephants are used in some places and mostly in the extraction of forest timber. Horses are in use only in a small area in the south west portion of the district. Previously there were only a few cycles in the district but with the improvement of the road system, use of cycles has become popular and they are now found in the most interior villages, being used even for carrying small loads of articles by the villagers. The numbers of motor vehicles, bullock carts, cycles etc., in the district are given below :-

Years	Cycles	Bullock Carts.	Boats	Number of Vehicles on roads	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1956-57	116	226	256	47	
1957-58	230	246	310	64	
1958-59	292	144	332	86	
1959-60	131	349	300	119	
1960-61	220	280	—	—	
1961-62	288	345	—	—	
1962-63	300	491	—	—	
1963-64	250	500	—	—	
1964-65	300	500	—	—	

Public Transport : As already stated above stage carriages carrying passengers now ply between Diphu and places lying along the new roads. The Diphu-Dobaka and Howraghat Bus Association runs six stage carriages between Diphu and Dabaka and Howraghat. Two stage carriages also run from Diphu to Golaghat touching Dimapur (Nagaland), Bokajan, Sariahan etc. The Assam State Road Transport Corporation

has introduced 2 up and down direct services from Nowgong to Diphu and *vice-versa* linking the headquarters of the two neighbouring districts with effect from 15th August, 1966. The Corporation is also providing single transport service between Haflong and Jowai, the sub-divisional headquarters of U.K. & J. Hills district on every alternative day with effect from 26th Jan.'66. The Jowai-Haflong route is the only nationalised route in North Cachar Hills and as a result of bad conditions of roads, the Corporation charges a bit higher rate as compared to other routes in the State.

The role of road transport in the economic life of the inhabitants of the district is of no small importance. Want of easy road communications made development of the different areas a difficult task. In times of famine, relief reached too late and diseases breaking out in an epidemic form took a heavy toll of life, by the time medical aid become available to the people. Hill products, on which the villager's earnings for livelihood depend, could not be transported timely and fully and for what could be transported by head-loads and other slow means, the villagers could get only very low price. But now with the gradually improved road system the villagers can sell their products nearer their homes and at higher price. This is also helping in creating an urge among them for increasing the production.

(c) **Railways** : The portion of North East Frontier Railway which falls into the district of United Mikir & North Cachar Hills comes about 266 kms. in length and connect the Nowgong and Sibsagar district in the north and Cachar district in the south. It comprises Hill section running from Lumding to Badarpur besides the main line running from Pandu to Dibrugarh. The main line which runs from Pandu to Dibrugarh; and may be described as the life line of Assam, mainly passes through Karbi Anglong. The important stations on the line falling within the District are Diphu and Bokajan. About a length of 143 kms. of this line is within the District.

The Hill Section which starts from the outer-signal of the Lumding Station, the main junction on the main line, passes through the North Cachar Hills and the important stations of the district touched by this line are Maibong and Lower-Haflong. Only about a length 123 kms. of this line is within the district.

Just after its start from the outer-signal of the Lumding station., the Hill line worms up her way up and down through the dense *jungles* and mountainous region and bamboo growth, all round the country,

passing over watersheds and depressions or valleys. The alignment everywhere runs through and around various spurs of North Cachar Hills and crosses by means of high banks and viaducts.

The maintenance cost of this section is very high and the cause may safely be attributed to geological formation of the country through which it passes. The formation consists of sandbeds on and between shales, the latter, more crushed and distorted. The sand stone is soft and slightly disintegrates forming a material which flows when saturated in the form of surface slips. The shales disintegrate rapidly on exposure to air and water on their inclined beds when lubricated with water, forming launching-ways for deep seated slips and movements. The whole country is being denuded and the main and side streams are deepening their beds slowly in the areas of the ordinary rainfall and rapidly when the rainfall is excessive.

Various measures are taken to protect the formation of bank against heavy scouring and erosion. They are in the forms of boulder drains, drainage headings, blocks and sausages etc.

There are about 37 tunnels in Hill Section out of which 33 tunnels fall in United Mikir & North Cachar Hills district; the longest tunnel No.11 is situated in between Daotuhaja and Mahur section whose length is 1922'-6" and the shortest tunnel No.14 is situated between Mahur Lower Haflong section. The major bridges are mostly on curves.

The project for Railway connecting Brahmaputra Valley with Surma Valley (South-Eastern Bengal and the part of Chittagong now in Bangladesh-erstwhile East Pakistan) was made by Mr. John Buyers C.I.E. in 1882. The then Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, Sir Guilford Molesworth accepted the detailed survey in 1887. This scheme consisted of 736 miles (about 1185 kms.) metre gauge railway running throughout the whole length of Assam and Eastern Bengal from Dibrugarh in the north to Chittagong in the south with branches to Gauhati, Silchar and Chandpur.

On Dibrugarh-Chittagong line, the route lay for 115 miles (about 185 km.) through United Mikir & North Cachar Hills district and Cachar District (from Lumding to Badarpur is now known as Hill section,) out of which 85 miles (about 137 kms.) the major portion of Hill section, falls in United Mikir & North Cachar Hills District. After the partition of India, the portion of Railway falling beyond mile 135.65 near Mahisasan was given to Pakistan and the remaining portion remained under Government of India. In 1958, N.F. Railway came into existence as separate Railway with its headquarters at Pandu.

The execution of the work was taken in hand in 1892 on the plains and that of Hill section proper during the cold season of 1896-97.

The date of opening of the line for the traffic for different sections is given below :-

Name of the line	Date of opening the line
Akhaura-Karimganj, Junction	4.12.1896.
Karimganj-Badarpur, Junction	4.12.1896
Badarpur Junction-Damcherra	23.4.1899
Damcherra-Lumding, Junction	1.12.1903
Badarpur Junction-Katakhal Junction	13.6.1898
Katakhal Junction-Silchar	8.11.1898
Katakhal Junction-Lalaghat Approximately in	1923-24.
Karimganj Junction-Dullabhcherra	} Approximately n
Baraigram Junction-Kalkalighat	
	1928-29.

The Railway is the vital link between the neighbouring districts as stated above and plays an important role in the economic and social life of the people inhabiting the area. Prior to Independence there was no other reliable source of communication and transport except the railways. The local agricultural and forest products of the district are exported to various trading centres mainly through railways. It is also the bulk carrier of the passenger traffic. Both goods and passenger traffic are gradually on increase.

As stated above, the railway is still the vital means of communication and transport, and there is practically no competition with road transport. Previously there was no road communication with Cachar and Nowgong district through United Mikir & North Cachar Hills district but recently State P.W.D. has constructed some roads connecting this district with Cachar, Nowgong and Sibsagar and in due course railway may have to face competition for transport of local products and passenger traffic. The names of the railway stations on the both the lines falling within the district are as follows :-

Name of Stations	Name of Stations
1. Lamsakhang.	14. Dittcokcherra.
2. Patharkhola.	15. Bandarkhal.
3. Hatikhuli.	16. Barlangfur.
4. Langting.	17. Langcheliot.
5. Mupa.	18. Nailalung.
6. Maibong.	19. Diphu.
7. Daotuhaja.	20. Daldali.
8. Mahur.	21. Dhansiri.
9. Lower Haflong.	22. Rangapahar.
10. Haflong Hill.	23. Rangapahar Crossing.
11. Jatinga.	24. Khotkhoti.
12. Mailongdisa.	25. Bokajan.
13. Harangajao.	26. Langladisa.

Passenger traffic by Railways in the Karbi Anglong

Name of the Station.	1962-63				1963-64				1964-65			
	1st class	2nd class	3rd class	Total	1st class	2nd class	3rd class	Total	1st class	2nd class	3rd class	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Barlangfar	1	100	6,918	7,019	—	39	4,199	4,238	—	27	7,094	7,121
2. Langcheliot	—	81	9,542	9,623	—	7	5,953	5,960	—	28	7,461	7,489
3. Nailalung	—	—	15,436	15,436	4	62	2,787	2,853	82	173	5,731	5,986
4. Diphu	775	6,619	93,066	1,00,460	689	5,371	72,096	78,156	830	6,372	85,591	92,793
5. Daldali	8	50	8,394	8,452	—	33	4,380	4,413	—	55	6,660	6,715
6. Dhansiri	184	1,067	26,362	27,613	61	728	16,770	17,559	48	1,074	31,333	32,455
7. Rangapahar	4	33	6,609	6,646	7	37	4,469	4,513	2	131	7,851	7,984
8. Rangapahar crossing	11	170	18,417	18,598	2	82	12,340	12,424	9	211	17,369	17,589
9. Khotkhoti	—	185	16,290	16,475	1	154	8,602	8,757	10	206	12,950	13,166
10. Bokajan	14	1,095	56,620	57,729	11	904	34,659	35,574	16	1,289	58,545	59,850
Total	997	9,400	2,57,654	2,68,051	775	7,417	1,66,255	1,74,447	997	9,566	2,40,585	2,51,148

Passenger Traffic by Railways in the North Cachar Hills

Name of the Station	1962-63				1963-64				1964-65			
	1st class	2nd class	3rd class	Total	1st class	2nd class	3rd class	Total	1st class	2nd class	3rd class	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Hathikholi	4	69	15,929	16,002	6	81	12,877	12,964	20	182	14,248	14,450
2. Langting	70	412	21,919	22,401	72	330	18,375	18,777	102	449	21,228	21,779
3. Mupa	4	18	4,839	4,861	1	17	5,548	5,566	2	22	5,677	5,701
4. Maibong	49	757	26,605	27,411	58	598	24,658	25,314	52	583	27,141	27,776
5. Daotuhaja	—	22	4,328	4,350	5	11	3,970	3,986	—	9	4,431	4,440
6. Mahur	32	374	16,880	17,286	23	921	15,092	16,036	9	419	20,244	20,672
7. Dittokcheria	24	153	11,711	11,888	32	66	9,191	9,289	23	192	14,437	14,652
8. Harangajao	44	490	21,702	22,236	25	275	17,012	17,312	29	311	21,543	21,883
9. Mailongdisa	2	21	3,493	3,516	—	23	2,682	2,705	—	13	3,338	3,351
10. Jatinga	6	35	6,548	6,589	3	20	5,095	5,118	1	46	6,151	6,198
11. Lower-Haflong	559	1,573	27,358	29,490	361	1,157	24,258	25,776	595	1,874	32,080	34,549
12. Haflong Hill	107	1,179	21,907	23,193	202	1,001	24,440	25,643	186	982	25,213	26,381
Total	901	5,103	1,83,219	1,89,223	788	4,500	1,63,198	1,68,486	1019	5,082	1,95,731	2,01,832

(d) WATERWAYS AND FERRIES :

Most of the rivers and streams in the district being hill streams, there is no regular waterways service for transport in the district. But as stated elsewhere in some of the rivers like the Kopili, Barapani, Jamuna, Kolanga etc. transport of goods and commodities by small country boats touching trade centres such as Howraghat, Kolanga, Kheroni, Tumpreng and Baithalangso etc., is not uncommon.

There is no water way constructed or maintained by the Government. There are some ferries maintained for crossing rivers and streams. The ferries are also used for transporting commodities and goods across these rivers and streams in small boats. The Public Works Department is mainly responsible for maintaining the ferry services across all the important rivers.

(e) TRAVEL AND TOURIST FACILITIES :

There were no rest houses and *Dharmasalas* in old times in the district. But there is a mention of some rest houses at places like Haflong, Gunjong, Derabara, Baga, Khurungma and Hot springs in the North Cachar Hills in the old District Gazetteers of Cachar.

Now there are Inspection Bungalows, Dak Bungalows and Rest Houses in the district constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department, Forest Department, Soil Conservation Department, Embankment & Drainage Department and District Councils. There are two Circuit Houses located at Diphu and Haflong. Catering facilities are available in both the Circuit Houses and Dak Bungalow at Haflong. In addition there is one well furnished Member's Hostel maintained by the District Council, Karbi Anglong at Diphu. In Inspection Bungalows, there are provisions for furniture and crockery. There is one *Chowkidar* in each Bungalow who usually does the cooking etc. for the occupants. Following is the list of the Inspection & Dak Bungalows and Rest Houses in the district.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. Mohindijua | (two nos) | 8. Baithalangso |
| 2. Bhtor Kaliani | (two nos) | 9. Tumpreng. |
| 3. Dokmoka. | (two nos) | 10. Truky chang |
| 4. Howraghat. | | 11. Umtelli. |
| 5. Umpani. | | 12. Diphu. |
| 6. Ram's Bungalow | (two nos) | 13. Haflong. |
| 7. Kheroni. | | 14. Phulani. |

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| 15. Borpathar. | (two nos) | 24. Mahur. |
| 16. Japarajan. | | 25. Maibong. |
| 17. Gunjong. | | 26. Baga. |
| 18. Garampani. | | 27. Laisong. |
| 19. Kharungma. | | 28. Dehang. |
| 20. Dengaon. | | 29. Wazoo. |
| 21. Amsolong. | | 30. Tulpai. |
| 22. Poshary. | | 31. Laikul. |
| 23. Amsoi. | | 32. Dehangi. |

(f) POST AND TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES :

The first regular postal system in the district was introduced during the British regime. The first Post Office was opened at Haflong and other Offices were opened subsequently according to public need and their steady growth has continued since then. The North Cachar Hills was previously under the administrative jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Cachar Division, and the post offices in Karbi Anglong were under the Superintendent of Post Offices, Upper Assam Division, Dibrugarh. But with the creation of a separate division at Tezpur, the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district was brought under the administration of Tezpur Division. Later on in 1962, with the creation of the Shillong Division, this district was brought under the administration of Shillong Division. In the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district there are 6 (six) Sub-Offices including two Lower Selection Grade Sub-Offices and 53 Extra Departmental Branch Offices. There were only one Sub-Office and 5 Extra Department Branch Offices on 15.8.47. From 1962 onwards 10 new offices were opened, one Extra Departmental Branch office was converted into a Departmental Combined Sub-office and upgraded to Lower Selection Grade Combined Sub-office. The staff of the offices was also increased accordingly to meet the demand of the public.

The Postal set-up comprises the different classes of Post Offices starting from Branch Offices, Sub-Offices and terminating in the final accounting unit termed as Head Office. The accounts of these Post Offices are finally audited and compiled in the Sub-Audit Offices serving the area and then finally through the Accountant General, Post and Telegraphs (as a part of the accounts of the Government of India). So far as United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district is concerned, the Post Offices of the different classes, are not, due to the requirements of the cases, under any Head Office situated in the same revenue jurisdiction. Thus the Post Offices are controlled for account purposes, by the Silchar

Head Office, Kohima Head Office, Jorhat Head Office, Nowgong Head Office, Tura Head Office and Gauhati Head Office which lie outside the revenue jurisdiction of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district.

The Branch Offices are grouped under convenient Sub/Head Offices with the view to expedite transmission and disposal of mails and also supply and removal of cash. Generally the Post Offices in the hills are served by the runners by foot-line daily except when the post offices are situated far in the interior when the service may be curtailed to weekly, bi-weekly and tri-weekly. Some Post Offices situated at convenient places receive mails directly from the Railway Mail Service and some through Mail Motor Services.

The installing and maintenances of Telegraphs and Telephone lines are controlled by the Engineering Section of the Department who also controls the Phone Exchanges. The inner control of Combined Post & Telegraph Offices rests with the Superintendent of Post Offices.

Following are the Post Offices in the district with abbreviations used for words

1. Diphu CSO (LSG)	LSG—Lower Selection grade
2. Bokajan CSO.	CSO—Combined Sub-Office
3. Howraghat SO	SO—Sub Office
4. Haflong CSO (LSG)	EDBO—Extra Departmental Branch Office.
5. Mahur SO.	
1. Bargaon EDBO	15. Ditockcherra EDBO
2. Balipathar „	16. Haflongbazar „
3. Bogijan „	17. Haflong RS „
4. Deithor „	18. Harangajao „
5. Deopani „	19. Gunjung „
6. Diphubazar „	20. Jatinga „
7. Mohendijua „	21. Maulhoi 7 „
8. Neparati „	22. Daotuhaja „
9. Sariahjan „	23. Mupa „
10. Bhitorkaliani „	24. Langting „
11. Dabaka „	25. Parakhowabazar „
12. Duarbamuni „	26. Phulani „
13. L. Manikpur „	27. Donkamokam „
14. Langlaskao „	28. Kolanga „

29. Tumpreng „	42. Japarajan EDBO
30. Umpani „	43. Dhansiripar „
31. Baithalangso „	44. Dillai „
32. Hatikholi „	45. Hajadisa „
33. Lancheliot „	46. Liasong „
34. Rajapathar „	47. Christientkamphai „
35. Anjakpani „	48. Khotkhoti „
36. Bokaliaghat „	49. Manja „
37. Palakamati „	50. Uttarbarbil „
38. Amtreng „	51. Chokikhola „
39. Kheroni „	52. Baraakap „
40. Howaipur „	53. Dokmoka „
41. Disirigoyansatra „	

Plans for extension of postal facilities : Various schemes are under consideration for expansion of Postal facilities in the district. Proposals have been submitted to the Post Master General, Assam Circle, Shillong, for his approval to open Post Offices at the following places.

1. Langhing-Tiniali.
2. Okreng.
3. Koilajan.

Proposals have also been submitted for conversion of the following EDBO into a Deptt. CSO.

1. Langting.
2. Bokaliaghat.

Plan for opening up of new Post Offices at the following places are under consideration.

1. Kachuphukhuri.
2. Dautaghat.
3. Umachera.
4. Taradubi.
5. Amsigoan.
6. Umteli.
7. Rangkut.
8. Dalamara.
9. Bongagaon.
10. Tuaghar.
11. Mailongdisha.
12. Narsingdisha.
13. Amtalong.
14. Hidipi.
15. Amsing.
16. Maiding.
17. Barhkai.
18. Dyangmukh.

The following are the Telegraph offices in the district.

1. Maibong Combined sub-office.
2. Haflong „
3. Bokajan Combined sub-office.
4. Diphu Bokajan „

New Telegraph offices are proposed to be opened at the following places.

1. Mahur.
2. Baithalangso.
3. Howraghat.

A statement showing the number of Telephone Exchanges and connections in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district is given in the appendix B of this chapter.

(g) **TRANSPORT OWNER'S ORGANISATION :**

There is only one transport owner's association, the 'Diphu, Howraghat and Dabaka Bus Association,' which runs buses from Diphu to Howraghat and Dabaka and to other places.

APPENDIX 'A'

Statement showing the number of various kinds of Post Offices in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District.

Post offices	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Head Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Branch Office	11	12	12	15	29	32	33
3. Sub-Office	1	1	2	2	2	2	3

Post Offices with Restricted function

1. Delivery Office	12	13	14	17	31	34	36
2. Money order Office.	12	13	14	17	31	34	36
3. Savings Bank Office.	1	1	2	2	2	2	3

Combined Office

1. Head Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Sub-Office	1	1	2	2	2	2	3
3. Branch Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Postal receiving Office.	1	1	2	2	2	2	3
5. Dept. Telegraph Office							
6. Record Office							
7. Sorting & transmit Office							
8. Sorting & transmit section.							

N I L

**Statement showing the number of various kinds of Post Offices
in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District.**

Post offices	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1. Head Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Branch Office	36	39	42	42	43	45	53
3. Sub-Office	3	4	5	5	6	6	6
Post Offices with Restricted function							
1. Delivery Office	39	43	47	47	49	51	59
2. Money order Office.	39	43	47	47	49	51	59
3. Savings Bank Office.	3	4	5	5	5	8	9
Combined Office							
1. Head Office	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Sub-Office	3	3	3	3	4	4	5
3. Branch Office	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
4. Postal receiving Office.	3	4	4	4	4	4	5
5. Dept. Telegraph Office							
6. Record Office							
7. Sorting & transmit Office							
8. Sorting & transmit section.							

N I L

APPENDIX 'B'

**Statement showing the No. of Telephone Exchanges and connections
in the United Mikir & North Cachar Hills District.**

Existing Telephone Exchanges.	Date of installation	No. of Telephone connections as on 31.3.65.	Plan proposed for extension.	Proposed PCOS
1	2	3	4	5
1. Haflong 50 L Mag	16-6-59	46	50-50 S.A.X.1.	Howraghat
2. Diphu 50 L Mag	14-2-59	41	To be replaced by 100 LCBNMBD.	2. Baithalangso
Public call offices				3. Bokalia.
Existing.				4. Mahur.
1. Haflong.				5. Mohindijua.
2. Diphu.				6. Chakikhola.
3. Maibong.				7. Umpanai.
4. Bokajan.				8. Donkamokam.
				9. Langting.

CHAPTER-VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

(a) PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION :

It is to be noted that public administration as an occupation had but little significance in the constituent areas of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district before its creation in 1951. There were only a few public employees in the administrative services at Haflong which then formed the headquarters of the North Cachar Hills subdivision under the Cachar district. The emergence and growth of Diphu as the headquarters of the new district and subsequent creation of Block and Circle headquarters, other offices of the State and Central Governments and local bodies enhanced the importance of public administration which claimed 4,954 persons in the district as per the 1961 Census. This figure does not include public service employees in such fields as transport communication, information and broadcasting, education and scientific services, health, industries, production, construction, marketing and operation of financial institutions etc., each of which is classified in appropriate industrial groups.

The following table shows the distribution of the employees in public administrative services in the district as per the 1961 Census.¹

Description of public service	Males	Females	Total	Urban	
				Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Police service	219		219	71	-
2. Administrative Service (State)	2,731	142	2,873	184	8
3. Administrative Service (Central)	1,552		1,552	72	-
4. Administrative Service (Quasi Govt. and local bodies)	213	97	310	28	9
Total public services	4,715	239	4,954	355	17

1. Census of India, 1961, Assam, District Census Hand Book, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills, p. 88.

This shows that in 1961, the percentage of people pursuing such avocation in the district remained below two per cent of its total population. Female participation in administrative services was extremely low. The total number of females in this service was only 239. More than 94 per cent of the total employees in administration was engaged in the rural areas. The following table shows the numbers of administrators, executive officials under the State, Central and Local Self Government as per the 1961 Census.²

Description	Males	Females	Total	Urban	
				Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Administrators and executive officials, Government.	313	21	334	33	1
2. Administrators and executive officials, Central Government.	29	---	29		
3. Administrators and executive officials, State Government.	222	3	225	21	1
4. Administrators and executive officials, Local Bodies.	15	-	15	6	---
5. Administrators and executive officials, Quasi-Government.	19	5	24	2	---
6. Village officials	22		22		---
7. Administrators and executive officials, Government, N.E.C.	6	13	19	4	

2. Census of India, 1961, Assam, District Census Hand Book, United Mikir & North Cachar Hills, p. 194.

It may be noted here that most of the employees of the administrative departments and other development and welfare departments in the district hail from other parts of the country outside the district. Lack of facilities in the newly established headquarters town of Diphu which was a tiny village railway station, required the Government to provide with various facilities to public servants particularly housing accommodation. Government provided with rent-free thatched houses while charged the minimum 10 per cent of pay as rent for *pucca* quarters.

Some of the benefits available to public servants are : (1) General Provident Fund Benefit, (2) Pensions and Gratuities after retirement, (3) Joint Family Pension, Liberalised Family Pension, Commuted Pension, (4) Free Medical Treatment for the employees and his family and children, (5) Earned leave for three months with full average pay and for one month with half average pay at a time, (6) Medical leave with full average pay and also maternity leave for females, (7) Sickness Benefit for treatment of some serious diseases, (8) 15 days Casual Leave plus 2 days special Casual Leave within a calendar year, (9) 120 days i.e., 4 months leave with full average pay at the time of retirement, (10) Provision for a public servant in permanent employment for going on lien to some other service, (11) Provision for travelling allowance for officers going home on earned leave, (12) Building advance, (13) Conveyance advance for purchasing motor cars, motor cycles, cycles etc., (14) Provision for rent-free quarters and House rent in some Departments, (15) Provision for free education to children of the Central Government employees. The working hours in the State Government offices, except in the winter season is for 6½ hours on weekdays and 3 hours on Saturdays. The offices of the State Government remain closed usually for thirty-one days a year.

Public Employees Organisation : In order to safeguard the interests of the Government employees and to promote their well-being, several categories of employees serving under the State Government and Central Government have formed some associations. The organisations of Central Government employees are formed on All-India basis, while those of the State Government employees are formed on All-Assam basis. There are district units of both these types of organisations in this district. These organisations endeavour to fulfil their grievances in a peaceful manner. Time to time some of the organisations also resort to strikes. More notable of these strikes are :-

1. The All India Postal Union's strike in 1968.
2. All India Railway Union's strike in 1967, and

3. All Assam Ministerial Association's strike in 1965 and 1966. The following are some of the Associations of the Government employees :

- (1) All Assam Ministerial Officer's Association (in State Government service).
- (2) All Assam 4th Grade Employees Association (in State Government Service).
- (3) All Assam Transport Worker's Union
- (4) All Assam *Mandal Kanango Sammilan*
- (5) All Assam Sericultural Officer's Association
- (6) All Assam *Mohurir* Association.
- (7) All Assam Worker's Union, P.W.D.
- (8) A.E.S., S.E.S. & S.A.S. for Officers of the P.W.D.
- (9) *Abkari Karmachari Sangha*.
- (10) Assam Civil Service (class I) Association.
- (11) Assam Civil Service (class II) Association.
- (12) All India Postal Union (Under Central Government).
- (13) Employees Association of Assam State Electricity Board.
- (14) All Assam Co-operative Officer's Association.

(b) **LEARNED PROFESSIONS :**

Before the creation of the district, the percentage of persons engaged in learned professions such as teaching, medicine and surgery, engineering and legal practice was very negligible in the areas constituting the district except at Haflong. The creation of the district and growth of the two towns opened increasing opportunities for such professions. The number of persons pursuing such learned professions in 1961 was recorded at 2,019 of whom 1,217 were males and 802 females.³ They constituted about 2 per cent of the total population of the district.

Teachers : Along with the expansion of education particularly primary education resulting in the increase of educational institutions in the district, the teaching profession has drawn increasing number of persons from within and outside the district. According to the 1961 Census, there were 906 teachers (all categories) in the district and of them 247 were females. Primary and middle schools provided with the largest avenue by engaging 607 teachers including 207 female teachers while secondary schools had only 203 teachers, the number of female teachers being only 27. The number of teachers increased to 1,285 during 1963-

3. *Census of India, 1961, Assam, District Census Hand Book, United Mikir & North Cachar Hills*, p. 192.

64, and of them teachers of primary and middle schools alone accounted for 1,038. Public consciousness as to the importance of education is now gradually increasing in the district and the Government is paying much attention towards rapid expansion of education. Service conditions of the teachers are now being improved to attract qualified persons to this profession to manage the growing number of schools. Besides providing them with better pay and other facilities, their children are now being given free education and scholarships for prosecuting higher education. The number of different categories of teachers and their distribution in urban areas are shown in the following as per the 1961 Census.⁴

	Males	Females	Total	Urban	
				Males	Females
1. Teachers—(total)	659	247	906	35	19
(a) in Secondary Schools	176	27	203	17	7
(b) in Middle and Primary Schools	400	207	607	18	10
(c) N. E. C.	83	19	96		2

Doctors : According to the 1961 Census, the total strength of physicians, surgeons and dentists in the district was 123 only (all males) and that of nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians was 697,—males 165, and females 532. They are mostly employed in the State hospitals and dispensaries. Some of them are employed in the private hospitals and dispensaries maintained by the tea garden authorities. The exact numbers of doctors under Government and Private employment as well as of private practitioners are not known. The following table illustrates the different categories of doctors, nurses and related workers in the district as per the 1961 Census.⁵

	Males	Females	Total	Urban	
				males	Females
1. Physicians, surgeons and dentists.	123		123	19	—
(a) Physicians and surgeons Allopathic	65		65	7	

4. *Census of India, 1961, Assam, District Census Hand Book, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills*, p. 193.

5. *Ibid* p. 192—193.

(b) Physicians, surgeons and dentists, N.E.C.	31	—	31	—	—
2. Nurses, Pharmacists and other medical and health technicians	165	532	697	1	4
(a) Nurses	22	149	171	—	2
(b) Midwives and health visitors.	4	354	358	2	—
(c) Pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians.	18	3	21	2	—
(d) Vaccinators.	24	—	24	—	—
(e) Medical and health technicians N.E.C. (excluding laboratory Assistants)	75	25	100	1	—

The above table reveals the absence of homeopathic and Ayurvedic systems of treatment in the district in 1961. Another peculiarity is that the largest number of these professional men are engaged in the rural areas of the district.

Legal practice : According to the 1961 Census, there were only 12 jurists in the district. It may be noted that legal practice in this district is yet to develop as litigation among the unsophisticated tribal people is almost absent. As a matter of fact, the litigants have to resort to hiring lawyers from the neighbouring districts of Nowgong, Sibsagar and Cachar.

Engineers : As elsewhere, there is absence of females in the engineering profession in this district. The total number of architects, engineers and surveyors in the district was only 112 in 1961 and of them 57 were civil engineers (including overseers). Only 3 persons were separately recorded in the categories of chemists, physicists, geologists and other physical scientists and 18 persons were recorded as biologists, veterinarians, agronomists and related workers in that Census.

In addition to these workers, 44 labour and social welfare workers, 46 artists, writers and related workers, 38 draughtsmen, science and engineering technicians not elsewhere classified and 20 other professional, technical and related workers were serving in the district.

Photography and Cinema : As revealed by the 1961 Census, there were 53 photographers and related camera operators and 517 service, sports and recreation workers in the district.

(c) **DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES :**

In the past, the areas constituting this district remained economically much backward. The social structure of the unsophisticated tribal people living a free and simple life is believed to have not induced the growth of dependency on domestic servants. On the other hand, they had among themselves village blacksmiths, carpenters, weavers etc., to make their agricultural implements and the minimum need of cloths. But the growth of towns and the creation of a separate administrative district with the undeveloped areas mainly inhabited by the tribal people have brought some changes on the entire economy. The influx of the Government officials and other outsiders in course of various trades and professions has developed the institution of domestic servants and other personal services of barbers, washermen, tailors, shoe-makers, carriers and the like. Most of the people carrying such occupations hail from outside the district particularly from Nepal, U.P., Bihar etc.

Domestic and institutional servants : According to the 1961 Census, the total number of persons in the district engaged in such occupations as house-keepers, cooks, maids and such other related workers was 684 consisting of 457 males and 227 females. Of these persons both in domestic and institutional services, house-keepers, matrons and stewards numbered 80 males and 8 females, cooks and cook-bearers 153 males and 108 females while in domestic service, butlers, bearers, waiters and maids etc., were 94 males and 33 females, the number of *Ayas*, nurse-maids etc., was 72 and the rest of 130 males and 6 females were not classified in any sub-groups. Again of these persons, only 37 males and 30 females were found in the urban areas. 54 male waiters were separately censused as institutional workers. The number of building caretakers, cleaners, sweepers etc., stood at 175 males and 17 females. The service conditions of this category of workers is the least enviable of the lot. The monthly wages of servants hardly exceed Rs.30.00 although

their bare necessities of food, lodging and clothing are fulfilled by their employers. There is no limit of working hours for these workers.

Barbers : It is already said that there is no professional barber among the indigenous people of the district. As in the other districts of Assam, professional barbers came to this district from outside the State of Assam, particularly from West-Bengal, Bihar, U.P. etc. Formerly, the barbers confined their business in the urban areas, trade centres and weekly markets located in the plains areas and did their business by the roadside. Sometimes, they moved in those localities. As time passed on, barber's shops or saloons and beauty shops began to grow up in urban areas and trade centres to satisfy the changing taste of the people. Now-a-days, they sometimes move from village to village to attend calls on some particular occasion. The minimum rate of hair-cutting is 75 paise in a saloon and 50 paise outside. According to the 1961 Census, the total number of barbers in the district was 82 only (all males).

Washermen : Like barbers, these people also come to the district from other parts of the country and do their business likewise. In recent years, establishment of washermen, laundrymen and *dhobis* are growing up in the urban areas. Washermen have slowly extended their business to the village centres also. Washermen collect the washables from their customers and wash them in rivers or streams nearby and iron them in their workshops. The total number of laundrymen, washermen and *dhobis* stood at 187 of which 147 were males and 40 females in the 1961 Census.

Tailors and other related workers : In that Census, 670 persons consisting of 56 males and 614 females were returned as tailors, furriers and dress and garment makers in the district. Tailoring is, of course, of cosmopolitan character and was not known in the past to the tribal people who used their home-made garments and still prefer to readymade ones. This explains the preponderance of females in this profession. The Census also revealed that a few other persons were in the pursuit of some other miscellaneous occupations e.g. 25 persons including 4 females worked as hawkers, peddlars and street vendors, 16 men were animal drawn vehicle drivers, 23 men were *palki* and *doli* bearers. 991 labourers consisting of 757 males and 234 females not classified under any group of workers in that Census earned their bread as loaders and unloaders. In addition, 3,821 male and 509 female labourers were left unclassified into any group of workers in the 1961 Census. These labourers might

have been engaged in casual work in construction, transport and communication, trade and commerce, and in other fields. Such casual labourers generally come to the district from outside particularly from Bihar.

The following table shows some other workers engaged in various other occupations in the district.

Workers	Male	Female	Total	Urban	
				Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6
Working proprietors, retail trade.	1,440	33	1,473	15	—
Salesmen and shop Assistants, wholesale and retail trade.	258	29	287	79	—
Farmers and farm managers.	4	2	6	1	1
Farm workers, animals, birds and insects rearers (including bee-keepers).	155	160	315	4	—
Gardeners (<i>Malis</i>).	21	2	23	3	—
Plantation labourers.	101	—	101	—	—
Farm workers, N.E.C.	102	—	102	—	—
Fishermen and related workers.	23	12	35	—	—
Log-fellers and wood-cutters	15	—	15	1	—
Loggers and other forestry workers, N.E.C.	23	—	25	4	—
Drivers, railway engine.	39	—	39	4	—
Firemen, railway engine.	26	—	26	1	—

Workers	Male	Female	Total	Urban	
				Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6
Motor vehicle and motor cycle drivers.	88	—	88	16	—
Workers in transport and communications, N.E.C.	70	3	73	53	—
Ropemakers, spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers, N.E.C.	33	7,357	7,390	1	30
Leather cutters, lasters and sewers.	10	—	10	1	—
Blacksmiths, hammersmiths and forgerer.	195	1	196	10	—
Precision instrument makers, watch makers, jewellers and related workers.	51	—	51	3	—
Toolmakers, machinists plumbers, welders, platers and related workers.	81	—	81	3	—
Electricians.	48	—	48	—	—
Carpenters, joiners and cabinet makers etc.	286	7	293	30	—
Bricklayers, plasterers, etc., N.E.C.	94	15	109	2	—
Compositors, printers, engravers, book-binders and related workers.	7	2	9	4	1
Potters, kilnmen, glass and clay formers and related workers.	65	32	98	—	—
Millers, bakers, brew-masters and related food and beverage workers.	116	119	306	13	—
Basketry makers and related workers	115	52	207	—	—
Service sport and recreation workers, N.E.C.	481	36	517	—	7

CHAPTER-IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS.

INTRODUCTION :—

The United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district presents quite a different picture unlike any plains district of Assam. In spite of being endowed with vast natural resources, hills and valleys of virgin soil yet to be exploited, this hill district lags far behind of other districts in respect of economic development. The difficult and unexplored terrains which are generally destitute of population stand as barriers in the way of development of communication and as a result, the message of modern civilisation is yet to reach the nook and corner of the district where the unsophisticated tribal folk live in sheer ignorance and poverty depending for food on their traditional method of *jhum* cultivation and other wild products. Till recently, the general characteristic of a Karbi village was its 'non-permanency' as they were in the habit of shifting their entire village from one hill to another in pursuit of virgin soil for *jhum* cultivation. Apart from this, they had but little wants for clothings and decent living. The economic condition of the non-Karbi villages is none-the-less better. Expansion of banking facilities to this backward district is precariously negligible. The district as a whole is sparsely peopled having large tracts of waste lands which have, of late, become subject to large scale invasion by land hungry people from outside the district resulting in a high growth rate during the decade, 1951-61. According to the 1961 Census, the district had a total area of 15,237 square kilometres and a total population of 2,79,726 persons composed of 1,50,127 males and 1,29,599 females who were occupying 52,773 households distributed over 1,869 villages and only one town, falling under five *thanas*. The villages are nothing more than small hamlets with a few households, the density per kilometre being 22 in the Karbi Anglong and 11 in the North Cachar Hills. Unlike the former, there are comparatively bigger and more permanent villages in the latter subdivision. The district is covered by nine Blocks under the Community Development Programme. On the whole, this is the most backward hill district which contributed only Rs.6.40 crores towards State income of which it formed less than 2 per cent. The value of agricultural output in that year was Rs.3.7 crores at the constant prices. The per capita income for the same year was Rs.234 which occupied the ninth place among the districts of Assam.

(a) LIVELIHOOD PATTERN :

A survey on the rural economic conditions in the Karbi Anglong by the Department of Economics and Statistics of the Government of Assam during 1948-50 revealed that about 98 per cent of the families in both Karbi and non-Karbi villages were wholly or mainly employed in agriculture and only two per cent lived by other pursuits including services. The agriculturists also followed some subsidiary occupations like trade, arts and crafts, services and professions, poultry keeping and dairy farming. It may be noted here that the economic classification of the population replaced the former basis of religion in the Censuses that followed this series of survey in Assam. In the 1951 Census, the entire population of 1,65,440 persons of this district was divided into 1,55,534 agriculturists and 9,906 non-agriculturists on the basis of livelihood pattern, each class forming 94 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. However, in that Census, there was thin yard-stick to ascertain the actual economically active population in either of the classes of workers which included their non-earning dependents who, in fact, constituted the largest fraction of the population. Among the agriculturists, there were owner-cultivators, non-owning cultivators, rent-receivers and agricultural labourers, the first category of workers having the largest number. The non-agriculturists were engaged in various pursuits such as production other than cultivation, commerce, transport and other services including miscellaneous occupations of which the last categories having 2.14 per cent of the total population predominated. The two main classes of the population were again subdivided into self-supporting, earning-dependents and non-earning dependents; the last category having the largest numbers in the agricultural class affected adversely the growth of the rural economy of the district.

These figures, however, do not lend themselves to comparison with the figures of the 1961 Census in which the basis of classification was changed to actual work from livelihood pattern in the 1951 Census. In the 1961 Census, the entire population of 2,79,726 of the district was divided into two main classes of workers and non-workers, each class having 1,57,300 and 1,22,426 persons respectively. The workers were again divided into nine categories viz., cultivators 1,27,580 ; agricultural labourers 2,224 ; workers engaged in mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities 655 ; workers engaged at household industry 10,113 ; workers engaged in manufacturing other than household industry 380 ; workers engaged in construction 410 ;

workers engaged in trade and commerce 1,837 ; workers engaged in transport, storage and communication 1,588 and other services 12,504.

The following table shows the sex-wise distribution of all the nine categories of workers as well as non-workers in both urban and rural areas as per the 1961 Census Report.¹

Statement showing the workers and non-workers classified by sex in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District.

SL. No.	Head	Urban		Rural		Total	Remarks
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	As cultivator.	12	—	72,458	55,110	127,580	81% of the total working population.
2.	As agricultural labour.	1	—	1,849	374	2,224	
3.	In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantation, orchards and allied activities.	12	1	467	175	655	
4.	At house-hold industry.	—	—	830	9,238	10,113	6.4% of the total working population.

1. *Census of India 1961, Assam, District Census Handbook, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills, Gauhati, 1965, pp. 1961-1965.*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5. In manufacturing other than house-hold industry.	74	42	232	41	389			
6. In construction.	66	—	324	20	410			
7. In trade and commerce.	117	3	1,654	63	1,837			
8. In transport, storage and communication.	166	4	1,373	45	1,588			
9. In other services.	678	80	9,913	1,833	12,504	7.9% of the total working population.		
10. Total workers.	1,126	130	89,100	66,944	157,300			
11. Total non-workers.	866	1,143	59,035	61,382	1,22,426			
12. Total population of the district.	1,992	1,273	1,48,135	128,326	2,79,726			

The above table indicates that in 1961, the total working population of the district stood at 1,57,300 out of the total population of 2,79,726 and the rest was non-working population. Of the total working population and the rest was non-working population. Of the total working population, cultivation which formed more than 56 per cent of the total population, cultivators claimed the overwhelming majority. It constituted more than 81 per cent of the total working population. Next comes the workers engaged in other services, who constituted about 7.9 per cent of the total working population. House-hold industry provided occupation to about 6.4 per cent of the total working population. The rest of the workers were employed in other six categories of occupations given in

the above table. This shows that this hill district remained quite undeveloped till as late as the sixties. There was no change in the traditional pattern of livelihood as growths of towns and industry was quite lacking.

Although agriculture was the livelihood of more than four-fifths of the working population, actual dependency on agriculture would be more pronounced. As already mentioned they lived still a primitive life save a few exceptions. Production has not increased to cope with the rapid growth of population. In 1961, total area under all crops was about 46,249 hectares which meant only about 0.37 hectares per cultivator having five to six dependents on the average notwithstanding large tracts still laying waste. The agricultural labour manage their bare subsistence.

The industrial categories of workers numbering 27,496 only in the 1961 Census were divided into groups. Out of 10,113 workers at household industry only 89 males and 1,630 females were employees, the rest being self workers and family workers. Out of 17,383 workers in the non-household industries, 317 males and 20 females were employers, 10,944 males and 1,626 females employees, 2,615 males and 413 females single workers and 1,200 males and 240 females family workers.

These workers engaged in the non-agricultural sector were again classified into 10 occupational divisions, 75 groups and 331 families according to their occupations as shown below : (Division-wise workers are only shown).²

	Male	Female	Total
1. Professional, technical and related workers.	1,217	802	2,019
2. Administrative, executive and managerial workers.	716	54	770
3. Clerical and related workers.	1,040	103	1,143
4. Sales workers.	1,739	66	1,805
5. Farmers, fishermen, hunters, loggers and related workers.	471	176	647
6. Workers in transport and communication occupations.	589	11	600
7. & 8. Craftsmen, production process workers and labourers not elsewhere classified.	5,923	9,089	15,012
9. Service, sports and recreation workers.	2,859	323	3,182
10. Workers not classified by occupation.	1,352	966	2,318

2. Ibid pp. 192-204.

Apart from classification of the population on the basis of primary occupations it is essential to examine subsidiary occupations pursued by the workers in order to formulate an idea about the economic conditions of different sections of the people. According to the 1961 Census, among cultivators 11,432 males and 13,920 females worked at household industries and 1,026 males and 260 females as agricultural labourers. Likewise, some people professing other occupations pursued also some other work as secondary means of livelihood. However, the number of such people is very negligible. It may also be noted that among persons not at work, there were 692 males and 9,973 females also, rendering household duties. Full-time students also help their parents in day-to-day works particularly in the agricultural families and thus contribute to the family budget. The class of people like beggars, vagrants etc. was also quite negligible as this class had only 74 males and 124 females recorded in the 1961 Census.

Prices : Price in terms of money is only a recent phenomenon coming into being along with the advent of the British prior to which the barter system was prevailing. "Exchange of products was mainly effected through the system of bartering."³ Sometimes, *kowries* were also used in small transactions. During the early part of the British administration money, though was drained into the market, it was yet to reach the rural sector particularly in this hill district where the simple villagers satisfied their wants merely by gratis or by bartering their surplus products in the bordering markets.

This district came into being only after Independence and therefore, price position in its constituent areas was the same as in the parent districts, which witnessed waves of rise and fall of prices during the pre-Independence days. Prices in general maintained an increasing trend before and after the First World War after which in 1921 there was a general fall in prices of all commodities. The downward trend in prices was so sharp that it led to the great economic depression from 1929 to 1933. The effect of the Second World War on prices will be found elaborately in the District Gazetteers of those districts. In short, the War-time price spiral went on unabated.

There was virtually no check to the galloping prices in the post-War years also. The all India price index (base 1939-100) shot up from 245 in 1945 to 389 in August, 1949. The increase was still higher in

3. E. A. Gait : *A History of Assam, Calcutta*, 1967, p-277.

Assam where the wholesale price index (base 1939-100) for rice increased from 283 in October, 1946 to 469 in October, 1949, just before the devaluation of the Indian rupee in 1949.

During the post-devaluation period, there was no respite in the increasing prices. Rather the increase was further accelerated by various factors. The price index for rice in Assam reached 648 in October, 1950. As it was observed in the annual report of Land revenue Administration in Assam 1950-51, "prices of foodstuffs continued to be as high as before."

In 1951, when this district came into being, Assam witnessed the highest increase of prices of all commodities so far recorded and this newly born hill district faced great hardship in procuring food-stuff for the people. The rising prices were, however, arrested by various control measures and good harvest. The general price level assumed a downward trend and along with the launching of the First Five Year Plan in 1952, came to stability at a lower level. At the end of the First Plan, prices of foodstuffs showed some increase and the general price level resumed upward trend which went on unabated during the Second Plan period not only in Assam but all over India. The All India price level increased by 30 per cent as against the decline of 13.4 per cent during the First Plan period. In Assam, the wholesale price index (base 1953-100) rose from 117.6 in 1956 to 135.4 in 1961. In the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district, the wholesale price of rice at Diphu as recorded in the 1961 Census rose to Rs.26.00 per *maund* in October, 1958 and declined to Rs.21.00 per *maund* in February, 1959. Though, the price of rice showed slight variations in the following months, it settled down at the same level at the end of 1960. On the other hand, price of *arahar dal* rose from Rs.28.00 per *maund* in October, 1958 to Rs.36.00 per *maund* in March, 1959. Other commodities also showed similar increase. This was, however, a temporary increase as in May, 1959, the price of *arahar dal* came down to Rs.30.00 per *maund* followed by others and moved round about in the following months.⁴ This was, however, a temporary lull in the price level which assumed an increasing trend in 1961. The Chinese aggression in 1962 pushed the price line further up and aggravated the price situation. The following will give an idea of the price situation in Assam in general since 1962 to 1968.

"The price situation in Assam is essentially a manifestation of the all India phenomenon of rising prices. But the upswing of the price

4. *Census of India 1961, District Census Handbook, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills Gauhati*, 1965 pp. 323-341.

level in the State has been pronounced due to certain factors like rapid growth of population, transport bottle-necks and virtual dependence on outside supply for essential consumer goods. The general index of wholesale prices for Assam (base 1953-100) rose by 82.4 per cent during the period 1961-67 from 135.4 in 1961 to 247.0 in 1967. In 1968, while the all India index indicated a declining trend of wholesale prices, in Assam prices rose by another 6.6 per cent over the previous year."⁵

The following table will show the group indices of wholesale prices in Assam since 1956.⁶

Year	Year. (Base 1953-100)		
	Food	Non-food	General (all commodities)
1956	117.9	117.8	117.6
1961	130.9	144.8	135.4
1966	218.1	199.1	211.6
1968	292.3	206.1	263.3

The following table will show the wholesale price indices of different articles in the respective groups since 1960.⁷

(Base 1953-100)

Year	Food				
	cereals	pulses	edible oils	sugar and gur	total food.
1960	132.9	103.4	117.5	109.1	128.8
1961	130.4	100.0	132.1	107.7	130.9
1962	136.2	115.4	134.9	108.0	136.2
1965	252.2	187.5	219.5	158.9	218.1
1967	321.4	279.3	249.1	285.8	272.8
1968	360.5	254.1	222.1	377.8	292.4

5. *Economic Survey of Assam, 1970*, Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam, p. 70.

6. *Statistical Handbook of Assam, 1965 to 1968*.

7. *Economic Survey of Assam, 1968*, Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam, p. 57.

(Base 1953—100)

	Non-food.				
	liquor & tobacco	raw mate- rials	finished products.	total non-food	all com- modities.
1960	133.4	131.4	143.3	136.1	131.2
1961	129.6	173.4	127.4	144.3	135.4
1962	123.2	141.9	139.3	136.3	135.9
1965	188.0	244.7	165.5	199.1	211.6
1967	160.8	227.5	176.2	194.7	247.0
1968	244.9	230.6	178.1	206.1	263.3

Consumer Price Index : The consumer price index number in terms of 1949 prices for working class in the urban centres of Assam during the last five years follows more or less the rising trend of wholesale prices as discussed above. The index for Assam as a whole rose to 239 in 1968 over 173 in 1966 reflecting an upward trend in the cost of living of the working class as a whole in the urban areas. The consumers price index number for rural population also reflected upward trend in the cost of living of the rural people in the plains districts of Assam, the number rising from 229 in 1966 to 278 in 1968 and the hill districts are no exception to such trend.

Wages : Wages formed the main source of livelihood of about seven per cent of the total population as per the 1961 Census. The number of agricultural labourers was not large while most of the wage

earners were in the non-household industries including trade and commerce, transport and communication and services including government services. The highest number of 9,387 employees forming more than 75 per cent was in the services group. This shows that the district was industrially very backward and no big industry was working in the district.

In the past, agricultural labourers were generally fed and paid in kind and whatever money-wage was paid, was very negligible. In the rural areas of the plains districts of the Assam, agricultural labour wages assumed an increasing trend after Independence. In 1956, average daily wages for carpenter was Rs.4.20 while for blacksmith Rs.3.50 and male field labourer Rs.2.42, while for other male agricultural labourer and herdsman it were Rs.2.36 and Rs.1.75 respectively. In 1968, their wages increased to Rs.6.29, Rs.5.72, Rs.3.37, Rs.3.17 and Rs.2.13 respectively. Such increase of wages in Assam as a whole and a continuous increase of prices had reflection in the hill districts also. The sample survey conducted during 1948-50 in the rural areas in the Karbi Anglong forming parts of Nowgong and Sibsagar districts revealed the conditions of agricultural labourers as follows : "During the busy season the monthly wages paid to labourers varied from Rs.30 to Rs.45 and in kind from 3.5 to 4 *mounds* of paddy. It is sometimes the custom to provide free food during the working hours in compensation of reduced wages in kind. Clothings are also sometimes provided with. No attempt has been made to calculate these extra facilities."⁸ This survey also revealed that wages of field labourers in non-Karbi villages are similar to those in the plains districts and were usually higher than it is in the Karbi villages. The annual economic surveys in Assam conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics reveal an increasing trend in the average daily wages of agricultural labourers in Assam.

Minimum wages : With a view to root out the economic injustice to the working class people, the Minimum Wages Act. was introduced in the State in 1952. The Act. covered the workers in tea plantations, public motor transport, and rice and flour mills. It was extended during the subsequent years (1953-59) to cover agricultural labour and workers under the Public Works Department (road construction, building operation, stone breaking and stone crushing) and under local authorities. The minimum wages for workers under Public Works Department were revised in 1964 and fixed at Rs.3.25 per day for unskilled workers and

8. *A Survey of the Rural Economic Conditions in Mikir Hills*, Department of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Assam, Shillong, 1953, p. 56.

the provisions of the Act, were extended to workers engaged in maintenance of roads and buildings. In 1966, the minimum wages for workers in the engineering and plywood industries were fixed at Rs.3.25 per day for unskilled labourers. The Act, was extended to *Bidi*-making industry in 1966 and to the jute baling industry a year later. The rates of wages were Rs.2.75 per thousand *bidis* for the former industry and Rs. 85.00 per month for the unskilled workers in the latter.⁹

Standard of living : It has been already pointed out that this hill district remained backward even after passing through three five-year plans. The living condition of the people particularly of the tribal folk in the far flung hilly areas remained almost unchanged. They are still agriculturists practising the traditional *Jhumming* cultivation though attempts have been made by the government and the District Councils to encourage wet cultivation as well as some form of terrace cultivation in particular areas wherever possible. In the Karbi villages, the people have but very few economic problems which, however, are sizeable in other villages. In the remote hilly areas, people still live in ignorance and poverty and the ideas of higher standard of living have no impact upon them. The undeveloped communication holds back the implementation of various development programmes. As a natural consequence the vast majority of the people have to live a life below the minimum standard of living.

The sample survey conducted in the Karbi Anglong during 1948-50 revealed that the average holdings per family measured 13.39 *bighas* and that small holdings form 37.12. per cent of the total holdings in Karbi villages against 10.67 per cent in the non-Karbi villages. On the other hand, large holdings amounted to 14 per cent in the Karbi villages against 46.59 per cent in the non-Karbi villages. The average annual gross income per family was Rs.327.00 in Karbi villages and Rs.898.00 in non-Karbi villages, the per capita income being Rs.49.00 and Rs.157.54 respectively. The average annual expenditure per family was Rs.340.00 in Karbi villages and Rs.925.00 in non-Karbi villages. This shows that the budget of the average family in both groups of villages is always a deficit one.¹⁰ The per capita income and expenditure show that the standard of living was comparatively better in the non-Karbi villages than in Karbi villages although in both cases, it was far below the minimum

9. *Economic Survey of Assam*, 1970, Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Assam, pp. 85-86.

10. *A Survey of Rural Economic Conditions in Mikir Hills*, Department of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Assam, Shillong, 1953 pp. 73-75.

tolerable standard. The bulk of the expenditure of a Karbi family was covered by food which accounted for 70.39 per cent against 64.42 per cent of a non-Karbi family ; tea, tobacco and drugs accounted for 13.79 per cent against 9.56 per cent respectively. This reveals that the impoverished habit of the Karbi people leaves almost nothing for spending on other amenities like education, medical care, travels etc., not to speak of luxury goods. People in the lower income group have the low standard of living while in the higher income group, their income is offset by increasing number of consumption unit. The primitive typed dwelling houses, i. e., *chang-ghars* on raised platforms built with indigenous materials which still form the Karbi villages and higher expenditure on food and beverages are indicative of their low standard of living. In the plains portions where most of non-Karbi villages exist living pattern has changed with a drift towards improved standard of living which is noticeable particularly in the semi-urban areas, growth of towns being negligible. In the district, there is only one town viz., Haflong town in the North Cachar Hills. With exception to this town, the economic conditions of the people in the North Cachar Hills do not materially differ from that prevailing in the Karbi Anglong, but for want of data nothing can be stated specifically.

There has been no further sample survey of economic conditions in rural areas of the district. The per capita income of the district stood at Rs.234.00 in the 1961 Census on the basis of 1960-61 prices against the State per capita income of Rs.311.1.

The average per capita income and expenditure do not indicate the general level of standard of living. It has been already pointed out that except a very few, the vast majority of the people in this district have a very low income which is much below the minimum income. The average budget of a rural family is always a deficit one which enhances indebtedness in the rural sector. The measures so far taken by the Government and the District Councils have but little effect on the development of economic conditions vis-a-vis standard of living of the people.

Family Budget : The sample survey as referred to above revealed that a great majority of the rural people were members of the families of two or more persons sharing a common income earned mostly by the joint efforts of the family unit and also disbursed in supplying the consumption needs of the family as a whole. Items as clothing, drugs and narcotics, medical care, travels and personal expenses were, of course, purchased on individual basis. Yet the bulk of the family income was disbursed on food, shelters and other commodities and services

shared by all members of the family. Families in similar economic groups tend to reveal definite limitations in the pattern of spending. The most important factor influencing the pattern of consumption was the amount of income available. The diversities of the expenditure within a given income group were due to some such factors as the size of the family, occupation, geographical location and social environment.

**Components of average annual gross-income of a family
—Karbi Anglong sample.**

Value in rupees

Karbi Villages.					Non-Karbi villages.			
Average gross-income of a family in the sample.					Average gross-income of a family in the sample.			
Value of items obtained and not sold	Value of items sold and cash income	Total	Percentage of total income	Value of items obtained and sold	Value of items not sold and cash income	Total	Percentage of total income	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Agricultural produce.	199.85	70.39 (57.1% of col.4.)	270.24	82.77	500.85	219.18 (75.% of col.8)	792.03	88.24
Milk and milk products.	2.59	1.11	3.70	1.14	9.86	1.63	11.49	1.28
Cottage industries.	0.88	13.76	14.64	4.48	2.17	1.37	3.54	0.39
Wages.	—	17.93	17.93	5.49	—	40.30	40.30	4.49
Miscellaneous.	0.02	10.47	10.49	3.21	—	14.20	14.20	1.58
Trade, service and professions.	—	9.51	9.51	2.91	—	36.04	36.04	4.02
Total	203.34 (62.5% of col.4)	123.17	326.51	100.00	512.88 (57.1% of col.8)	384.72	897.60	100.00

It is seen from the above table that the major income of the average family was derived from the value of items obtained in kind and not sold. About 62.3% of the average income of the Karbi Villages and 57.1% of the average income of the non-Karbi villages were derived from items produced at farm or at home. Among the cash receipts, the most important group was agricultural produce forming 57.1% in the Karbi villages and 75.7% in the non-Karbi villages. The items of receipts following next in order of importance in both groups of villages were wages, cottage industries, trade, service and professions. Income from the cottage industries in non-Karbi villages was, however, quite negligible (being only 0.36%). Milk and milk products contributed very little to the income of the Karbi people due to their social customs disavouring milking cows and she-buffaloes. The average gross income per family in the Karbi villages was Rs.327.00 and in the non-Karbi villages Rs. 898.00 per annum leading to per capita gross-income of Rs.49.00 and Rs.157.54 respectively.

The survey revealed that in both the village groups a large share of the average income was obtained in kind and retained for own use. In the farmless families, the major share of the income was in cash derived from trade, service and professions, labour wages or cottage industries and the annual average income per family was greater than that per family holding small farms in both groups of villages.

The average net annual income per family varied from Rs.127.00 to Rs.1,042.1 in different farm size groups in the Karbi villages and from Rs.362.3 to Rs.2,876.9 in the non-Karbi villages. The overall per family average net annual income in the two village groups was Rs.298.5 and Rs.706.9 respectively and the per capita net income was Rs.44.56 and Rs.124.02 respectively.

Expenditure : The average annual expenditure per family in the Karbi villages was Rs.340.00 and in the non-Karbi villages Rs.925.00 according to the above mentioned sample survey. It follows that the budget of the average family was a deficit one in both the Karbi and non-Karbi villages. The following tables show the broad pattern of an average family in both groups of villages as per the Karbi Hills sample survey.

**Components of the Average Annual Expenditure of Rural Families,
—Karbi Anglong Sample (Karbi villages)**

(Size of average family consists of 6.7 members)

Items of expenditure			Value of items ob- tained in kind and consumed (Rs.)	Cash ex- penditure Rs.	Total ex- penditure. Rs.	Percen- tage to total
1			2	3	4	5
(A) Food	Rice.		171.83	24.29	196.12	57.76
	Pulses.		—	0.92	0.92	0.27
	Potato and vege- tables.			1.11	1.11	0.33
	Fish and meat.			23.42	23.42	6.90
	Salt and spices.			8.73	8.73	2.57
	Mustard oil.			3.12	3.12	0.92
	Sugar and <i>gur</i> .	0.07		3.75	3.82	1.12
	Milk and milk products.		1.18	0.59	1.77	0.52
	Total		173.08	65.93	239.01	70.32
(B) Clothing			4.20	18.21	22.41	6.60
(C) Fuel and lighting				3.32	3.32	0.98
(D) Tea, toba- cco and drugs.	Tea.			9.44	9.44	2.78
	Betel-nut.			10.26	10.26	3.02
	Tobacco.			15.21	15.21	4.48
	Liquor.	10.10		1.67	11.77	3.46
	Total		10.10	36.58	46.68	13.74
(E) Miscellane- ous.	Wages.			0.74	0.74	0.22
	Interest.			8.01	8.01	2.36
	Repairing of homesteads.					

	1	2	3	4	5
Education.			0.83	0.83	0.25
Medical.			0.51	0.51	0.15
Marriages, cere- monies, etc.			13.26	13.26	3.91
Travelling.			0.01	0.01	0.00
Litigation.					
Ornaments.					
Others.		0.55	4.23	4.78	1.40
Total—		0.55	27.59	28.14	8.29
Grand Total—		187.93	151.93	339.56	100.00

**Components of the Average Annual Expenditure of Rural Families,
—Karbi Anglong Sample (Non-Karbi villages)**

(Size of average family consists of 5.7 members)

Items of expenditure		Value of items ob- tained in kind and consumed. (Rs.)	Cash ex- penditure (Rs.)	Total ex- penditure (Rs.)	Percen- tage to total.
1		2	3	4	5
(A) Food	Rice.	476.72	5.48	482.20	52.15
	Pulses.	0.22	11.93	12.15	1.31
	Potato and vegetables.	1.08	4.45	5.54	0.60
	Fish and meat.		18.96	18.96	2.05
	Salt and spices.		16.34	16.34	1.77
	Mustard oil.		29.74	29.74	3.22
	Sugar and <i>gur</i> .	0.17	14.93	15.10	1.63
	Milk and milk products.	13.12	2.50	15.62	1.69
	Total—	491.32	104.33	595.65	64.42

1		2	3	4	5
(B) Clothing.		8.20	84.34	92.54	10.00
(C) Fuel and Lighting.		---	13.47	13.47	1.46
(D) Tea.	Tea	---	14.13	14.13	1.53
Tobacco & Drugs.	Betelnut.	4.87	21.10	25.97	2.81
	Tobacco.	---	41.11	41.11	4.45
	Liquor	5.57	1.59	7.16	0.77
Total—		10.44	77.93	88.37	9.56
1		2	3	4	5
(E) Miscella- neous	Wages.	---	44.70	44.70	4.83
	Interest.	---	0.70	0.70	0.08
	Repairing of homesteads.	---	---	---	---
	Education.	---	30.83	30.83	3.33
	Medical.	---	5.30	5.30	0.57
	Marriages, ceremonies etc.	---	10.96	10.96	1.19
	Travelling.	---	12.04	12.04	1.30
	Litigation.	---	---	---	---
	Ornaments.	---	---	---	---
	Others.	---	30.14	30.14	3.26
Total—		---	134.67	134.67	14.56
Grand Total—		509.96	414.74	924.70	100.00

Out of the total expenditure of the Karbi villages 70.39% was incurred on food, 6.60% on clothing, 0.98% on fuel and light, 13.74 on tea, tobacco and drugs, and 8.29% on miscellaneous group items which included education, medical service, travelling, litigation, marriages, ceremonies etc. Expenditures on items like tea, tobacco and drugs appear to be high in the Karbi group of villages. This may be attributed to the fact that the hill tribes in general are addicted to the habit of smoking various kinds of tobacco which in some cases include opium also. Among the miscellaneous group items, the interest on loans, marriage and other ceremonial performances accounted for as much as 2.36% and 3.91% respectively. Expenditure on education was almost negligible while it was nothing for travelling. The Karbis collect their own fire-wood from nearby *jungles* and this accounts for very low expenditure under the group fuel and lighting. In the non-Karbi villages almost a similar pattern of family consumption expenditure was revealed except for some variations in the relative shares devoted to certain items of outlay. The share of expenditure incurred under clothing, tobacco, education, travelling and house-repairing is somewhat higher, while the same is lower under liquor, marriage and ceremonial performances, when compared with the Karbi village groups.

While the average estimates of consumption for all families is a matter of general economic and social concern, there is probably even wider interest in informations on how families belonging to typical economic groups divide their incomes between their current living expenses and other outlays on goods and services. In the said sample survey, the families were classified into groups according to their incomes. The average net income and total expenditures for each group are shown as also the proportion of the total expenditures devoted to each of the main items of outlays in the table in the next page :—

ANALYSIS OF FAMILY EXPENDITURE IN DIFFERENT INCOME GROUPS

Karbi Village (income groups)		Non-Karbi Village (income groups)											
Rs.300 & less than Rs.600		Rs.300	Rs.600	Rs.900	All the groups, over	Rs.300 and less than Rs.600	Rs.300 and less than Rs.600	Rs.600 to less than Rs.900	Rs.900 to less than Rs.1200	Rs.1200 to less than Rs.1500	Rs.1500 and over	All groups	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	13
Number of families.	41	28	3	4	76	3	6	6	3	—	5	23	
Average number of members per family.	5.83	7.39	7.00	10.50	6.76	4.00	4.83	5.33	8.00	—	6.80	5.70	
Average gross income per family.	180.13	417.86	678.08	1,122.06	336.95	177.25	442.04	711.67	1,083.33	—	1,955.90	890.59	
Average outlay per family.	28.85	40.05	45.92	170.51	38.41	13.16	55.03	129.93	400.64	—	374.77	183.69	
Average net income per family.	156.28	377.82	632.17	951.55	298.54	164.09	387.01	581.74	682.69	—	1,581.13	706.89	

U. M. AND N. C. HILLS DISTRICT GAZETTEER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Average expenditure per family.	206.56	416.14	558.44	1,003.13	339.59	230.89	394.19	602.37	1,163.03	—	2,203.42	916.66
Proportion of expenditure on :												
(a) Food.	64.26	72.36	78.64	74.10	70.38	53.25	72.70	73.04	59.93	—	63.13	65.07
(b) Tea, tobacco drugs.	17.35	12.66	10.29	10.75	13.75	19.09	10.54	13.74	6.98	—	8.06	9.5
(c) Fuel and lighting.	0.98	0.97	1.03	1.00	0.98	2.52	1.62	2.14	1.88	—	1.03	1.47
(d) Clothing.	6.21	6.23	3.56	9.77	6.60	17.97	8.41	7.51	11.60	—	10.40	10.12
(e) Miscellaneous.	11.20	7.78	6.48	4.38	8.29	7.17	6.73	3.57	19.61	—	17.38	13.83
Total—	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	—	100.00	100.00

ECONOMIC TRENDS

It appears from the above that food was the largest single category of expenses at every income level demanding about two thirds or more of the average overall expenditure. It is significant also to note the marked increase in money outlays on food at successive income levels. Food expenses for the income class of Rs.600/- to 900/- was only Rs.439/- in the Karbi villages, while at the income levels, 900/- and over, the average was Rs.743/-. On the other hand, in the non-Karbi villages, the food expenses for the income class of Rs.600/- to 900/- average was only Rs.440 while in the income level Rs.1500/- and over, the average was about 3 times that amount. This wide range of expenditure is the result of very low standard of food consumption in the low income group and also of increasing number of consumption units in the families of higher income group.

The important striking feature revealed by the summary picture of the family income and expenditure presented in the above table is the average net deficits shown by all families in both the village groups in all the income groups, except for a small surplus of Rs.74/- in the income group of Rs.600/- to Rs.900/- in the Karbi villages. For almost all families the entire family income was not adequate, on the average, to meet current outlays on food and other necessities and comforts of daily living. Even the advantage of comparatively larger average income was offset by the larger differential increase in the family expenditure due either to their larger family size or comparatively higher standard of living or both.

(b) GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT :

According to the 1961 Census, only 56.2 per cent out of the total population were workers of whom 82.5 per cent were engaged in agriculture and the rest 17.5 per cent in industries other than agriculture. The following table shows some of the salient features of the general level of employment.

Name of occupation.	Nature of Employment.	Male	Female	Total
1. Agriculture	1. Cultivators.	72,470	55,110	1,27,580
	2. Labourers.	1,850	374	2,224
Total—		74,320	55,484	1,29,804
2. Household industries.	1. Employers	89	1,630	1,719
	2. Others.	741	7,653	8,394
3. Non-household industries.	1. Employers.	317	20	337
	2. Employees.	10,944	1,626	12,570
	3. Single workers.	2,615	412	3,027
	4. Family Workers.	1,200	249	1,449
		15,076	2,307	17,383

From the above, it may be said that in the agricultural sector the self-employed cultivators provided employment to 2,224 labourers consisting of 1,850 males and 374 females. The household industries provided employment to 1,719 employees, of whom 89 were males and 1,630 females, besides engaging 8,394 other workers. The non-household industries including services had a strength of 17,046 workers of whom 3,027 were single workers, 1,449 family workers and 12,570 employees. Of the employees 10,944 were males and 1,626 females.

According to employment market surveys conducted by the Employment Exchange at Diphu, the employment in the public sector rose from 7,359 to 7,720 in 1966 and thence to 7,779 in 1967. This shows an increasing trend of employment in the public sector in the district. The following table shows the Employment Exchange statistics regarding registration, submission and placement in the district from 1959 to 1963.

	Year	Number of applications	S.T.	S.C.	Others.
A. Registration	1959	981	173	19	789
	1960	1,163	210	28	925
	1961	980	285	24	671
	1962	854	243	6	605
	1963	703	193	16	494
	Total—	4,681	1,104	93	3,484
B. Submission.	1959	463	104	14	344
	1960	642	46	16	400
	1961	443	122	11	310
	1962	402	52	2	348
	1963	478	248	9	221
	Total—	2,248	573	52	1,623
C. Placement.	1959	170	226	2	142
	1960	115	10	6	90
	1961	32	12	1	19
	1962	25	5	—	20
	1963	58	27	1	20
	Total—	400	99	10	291

The office of the District Employment Exchange in the district was opened at Diphu on March 2, 1959 to cater to the needs of employers and job seekers. It is under the control of the Director of National Employment Services, Shillong and is headed by one Assistant Employment Officer. There is one employment market section attached with district office.

(c) NATIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT :

The First Five Year Plan of Assam (1951-56) was preceded by the post-war developmental activities. The post-war programme which was responsible for the beginnings of educational and training institutions like the Assam Medical College, Assam Agricultural College, Assam Veterinary College, Assam Ayurvedic College and the Assam Forestry School, languished in 1949 when the central grants were curtailed or withdrawn as a result of the inflation then prevailing. The State Government was hard put to continuing these institutions which had been started, but soon after with the setting up of the Planning Commission, the First Five Year Plan was formulated to continue the tempo of development generated during the post-war years and to take up developmental activities in other spheres.

The First Five Year Plan of Assam was conceived as a modest effort designed to remove the shortages and disequilibrium in the economy following the War and Partition and to fulfil the needs of the most essential items like communication, agriculture, education, technical and vocational training & development in which the State was lacking.

The Second Plan of Assam sought to carry this process further, accelerate the rate of growth and to strengthen the institutional set-up designed to make the State's economy more progressive in terms of defined economic and social needs. It aimed at a balanced distribution of outlays between different sectors of development with particular emphasis on development of agriculture, irrigation, power, transport, education and health services.

During the Third Plan, while agriculture was given high priority, the requirements for accelerating the industrial development of the State as well as the development in social services, transport and power were kept in view. A special emphasis was placed on flood control.

The agricultural sector showed an upward trend in production but due to the occurrence of floods and absence of suitable flood protection

measures and other factors, the expected progress was not achieved. The industrial development in the State suffered a setback as a result of the Chinese aggression and Indo-Pakistan conflict. The achievement in physical terms in other sectors was also not entirely satisfactory.

Pending the finalisation of the Fourth Five Year Plan and the determination of well-defined strategy for development, during 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69 ; ad-hoc plans have been taken up. These annual plans were formulated broadly on the basis of assumptions and concepts as indicated in the approach to the Fourth Five Year Plan and were designed to carry forward the state of development reached at the end of the implementation of Fourth Five Year Plan.¹¹ The main factors that govern the level of development have been summarised as follows :

(i) A comparatively less-developed base : Unlike some other advanced and more developed States in the country, Assam embarked on her programme of plan development with a weak and less developed economy. The State had not received due attention in regard to the development of communications and other spheres of development during pre-Independence days. The Partition and the disruption of the channels of trade had put a further strain on the economy of the State. The lower level of development at the initial stages at the start of the planning process has been one of the reasons for accentuation of the difference in level of development in the State as compared to the other parts of the country.

(ii) Investment on Central projects : There was no investment on central industrial projects in Assam during the First and Second plan periods. During the Third Plan, the investment amounted to Rs. 32.8 crores and the total investment as provisionally assessed upto 1968 amounted to Rs.40.2 crores which formed 1.6 per cent of the total investment of the Central Government on industrial projects in various States. As compared to this, the investment in Orissa was 17.1 per cent, in West Bengal 16.7 per cent and in Bihar 14.6 per cent.

(iii) Financial assistance by different financing institutions : The financial assistance including refinance facilities given by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) was only 0.10 per cent of the total assistance disbursed. Similarly, so far Assam received 2.87 per cent of total assistance given by the Agricultural Re-finance Corporation

11. *Fourth Five Year Plan of Assam (Proposals) : Department of Planning & Development Govt. of Assam, pp. 4-5.*

as against 74.64 per cent received by Andhra Pradesh and 10.17 per cent received by Tamilnadu. Assam received 2.28 per cent of the net financial assistance sanctioned by the Industrial Finance Corporation so far as against 15.11 per cent received by Tamilnadu and 18.48 per cent received by Maharashtra. The State Banking Co-operative sector did not receive finance for long from the Reserve Bank of India since 1961.

(iv) **Private investment** : Investment in the private sector is governed by a variety of complex factors. The Chinese aggression and the Indo-Pak conflict acted as deterrents to private capital investment in the State. It is estimated that capital formation in the private sector in the State was of the order of Rs.150 crores during the first two Plans and of the order of Rs.136 crores in Third Plan period. No accurate estimate of the anticipated private investment during the Fourth Plan period can be made yet. It is clear that one of the reasons for low level of development in the State is the insufficiency of private investment during the plan periods.

(v) **High price index** : The trends in the price situation in Assam have been very disquieting. The index of wholesale prices in Assam (base 1953-100) rose from 131 in 1960 to 136 in 1962, 149 in 1963, 212 in 1966 and to 247 in 1967. The high prices prevailing in the State had an obvious impact on the cost of living and neutralised the impact of rise in income. The consumer price index-number series show that there was a rise of 33.3 per cent in the consumer price for the general working class during the Third Plan period. As a result of the persistent pressure of increasing prices there has been an irresistible demand for rise in wages and salaries. The Government had to accede to the demands for pay rise, the minimum wages of several categories of workers had to be revised upwards and the cost of the plan projects had gone up.

(vi) **High rate of population growth** : As already pointed out the rate of growth of population in the State has been the highest in the country and a greater effort and larger investment is needed to raise the level of development of the State.

(vii) **Agricultural production** : The Agricultural production in the State could not stabilise and show the expected increase primarily due to the vagaries of nature. The floods affected adversely food production during the Third Five Year Plan period and the absence of suitable flood protection measures accentuated the gravity of the situation.

On the other hand, drought affected certain areas in the State and lack of adequate irrigation facilities resulted in a fall in agricultural production. As the agricultural sector contributes more than 48 per cent to the total State income, the adverse trends in agricultural production have affected the State per capita income and consequently the level of development.

(viii) **Shortage of technical and administrative personnel** : In the first two Plans, the State faced a serious shortage of technical and administrative personnel. In the Third Plan, the difficulty had somewhat eased. In the Fourth Plan, the manpower difficulties have been considerably removed.

Community Development : The Community Development Programme which is an integral part of the national planning of the country aims at all-round improvement of the rural economic and social conditions by means of evoking initiative and securing support and participation of the people in every sphere of development work. With this noble object, 55 original pattern Community Development Projects were started in India in October, 1952. Each of these projects covered a fairly large area. In Assam, two such Projects were taken up for execution—one in Cachar and the other in Darrang district. These projects were subsequently converted into Community Development Blocks.

Since then the programme has undergone several changes in light of experience gained in operation. It was found that projects with small areas were more suitable for all-round development. So, the National Extension Service Scheme was introduced in 1953, aiming at developing Blocks with small areas. So far, this hill district was not covered by the programme. It was only in October, 1954, that two Blocks viz, Bokajan Block and Howraghat Block were opened. It may be mentioned that prior to introduction of the revised pattern of Blocks in 1956, each Block was in charge of a Project Executive Officer under the Deputy Commissioner and the Sub-divisional Officer, N.C.Hills who were also the Chairmen and the Sub-divisional Officer, N.C.Hills till 1958. He was assisted by a team of technical officers for agriculture, animal husbandry, health, co-operation, social education and engineering. In addition to this staff at the Block headquarters, there was for a convenient number of (usually ten or more) *Gram Sevaks* or multipurpose village-level workers. This organisation functioned as a team and brought to rural people the result of scientific research in agriculture and other fields, organised the supplies and services needed for development programme, spread the co-operative movement in the country side and more important than any-

thing else, stimulated local leadership and local initiative and harnessed the unutilised resources and human energy for all round development of rural life.

The Blocks were converted to Community Development Blocks in 1956. Since then it requires each Block to pass through three stages of development viz., Pre-extension Stage, Stage I and Stage II of intensive development and then Post-Stage II lasts for one year and during this period preparatory works like survey of the Block and agricultural demonstrations are held by a nucleus staff with budget of Rs.18,000/-. Then Stage-I of intensive development begins and continues for five years with a budget provision of Rs.12 lakhs. Full Extension staff is provided for execution of this stage. This is followed by Stage II for five years with a budget provision of Rs.5 lakhs. During this stage, some of the activities are expected to be taken over by the respective Departments and are financed from their budget. Then comes the Post-Stage II when the Block is completely normalised and all development activities are taken over by the different Departments and financed with their normal funds without any special provision under the Community Development budget.

During the Second Five Year Plan period, three more Blocks were opened in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district viz, Rongkhang and Diyung Valley Blocks in October, 1956 and Amri Block in October, 1960, and rest four viz, Jatinga Valley, Nilip, Socheng and Lumbajang functioned as shadow Blocks. Subsequently, Jatinga Valley entered into Pre-Extension Stage by 1961 and others were covered by the end of 1963. In 1961, Bokajan, Howraghat, Rongkhang and Diyung Valley Blocks functioned in Stage II and Amri Block in Stage I. During 1967-68, the former four Blocks functioned in Post-Stage II, four others in Stage II and one in Stage I.

The following table shows some of the particulars of the Blocks in the district.

Sl. No.	Name of the C.D. Blocks.	Name of Headquarters.	Area in Sq. km.	Population in (1000)	No. of villages	Date of estt.	Present stage.
1.	Bokajan.	Bokajan	358.4	17	222	Oct/54	Normalised.
2.	Howraghat.	Howraghat.	1,564.8	27	283	Oct/54	„
3.	Rongkhang	Dokamokam.	480.0	19	400	Oct/56	„
4.	Diyung Valley	Maibong.	1,280.0	20	160	Oct/56	„
5.	Amri.	Ulukunchi.	681.6	21	328	Oct/60	Stage 11
6.	Jatinga Valley.	Mahur.	1,740.8	20	163	April/61	Stage 11
7.	Nilip.	Chokihola.	1,129.6	23	414	April/61	Stage 11
8.	Socheng.	Jirikinging.	761.8	15	259	April/62	Stage 11
9.	Lumbajang	Manja.	1,475.2	16	226	Oct/62	Stage 1

Staff Pattern : Till 1958, the Deputy Commissioner at Diphu and the Sub-Divisional Officer at Haflong Chairman of the respective District Councils were guiding the District Councils in deliberations and actions pertaining to the development programmes executed by the Blocks, subject to the control of the Government. At present, the District Councils have their own elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the developmental activities in the district are operated under the guidances of the elected Executive Members of the District Council, to whom the subject matter is entrusted by the Council. The staffing pattern of the Block at present is as follows ; (1) One Block Development Officer who heads the organisational set-up of the Block, (2) Extension Officers, one each for Agriculture, Veterinary, Industry, Co-operatives, Social Education (3) Medical Officer, (4) Overseer, (5) Veterinary Field Assistants, (6) *Gram Sevaks* and *Gram Sevikas*, (7) Agriculture Demonstrators, (8) Sanitary Inspector, (9) Lady Health Visitor, (10) Cinema Operator and besides, other ministerial staff and grade IV staff.

The Block Development Officer remains in over-all executive charge of the Community Development Blocks. The Extension Officers are entrusted with the development works in the respective fields. The Block Development Officer and the Extension Officers are subjected to general control and supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, but they are also put under the supervision and technical guidance of their respective Heads of Departments. The *Gram Sevak* plays a crucial role in planning and development at the village level, as he is the main instrument of execution of the schemes.

As in other districts of Assam, the post of the District Rural Development Officer functioning till 1960 was abolished and the post of the Sub-Divisional Planning Officer was created in each sub-division.

Government Expenditure : The average expenditure per Block (excluding the amount spent on special programme) worked out to be Rs. 1.98 lakhs during 1969-70 as compared to Rs.1.70 lakhs in 1968-69 and Rs.2.08 lakhs in 1967-68. The average expenditure per Block distributed on ten major heads of expenditure during the period is as follows.

Major Heads.	(Rupees in thousand)		
	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
1. Block Headquarters.	100.9	112.5	109.8
2. Animal Husbandry, and Agriculture.	32.3	19.4	20.5
3. Irrigation.	20.7	5.0	17.9
4. Reclamation.	8.3	7.0	10.0
5. Health and Rural Sanitation. ..	8.2	3.6	7.0
6. Education.	6.5	2.2	5.2
7. Social Education.	4.9	2.7	4.1
8. Communication.	13.8	7.2	12.9
9. Rural Arts, Crafts and Industries. ..	3.1	1.4	2.3
10. Housing.	9.3	9.0	8.1
Total—	208.5	170.0	197.8

The total expenditure incurred by the Government in the Community Development Programme in Assam since 1952-53 to 1969-70 stands at Rs.3418.6 lakhs. The average people's contribution during 1969-70 stood at Rs. 1.6 thousand per Block.

CHAPTER—X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

The administrative history of the district may be traced back to the time when a portion of North Cachar Hills was part of the dominions of the *Raja* of Cachar. In 1829, Mr. David Scott, the first Commissioner of Assam and Agent to the Governor-General on the North-East Frontier, induced Govinda Chandra, the last *Raja* of Cachar, to assign to Tularam a tract of country in the Hills. In 1834, Tularam entered into an agreement with the British Government in which he resigned all the western portion of the tract ceded by Govinda Chandra, retaining the tract to the east, bounded on the south by the Mahur river and the Naga Hills, on the west by the Diyung, on the east by the Dhansiri and on the north by the Jamuna and Diyung. For this, he was required to pay a small tribute receiving in return a monthly pension of Rs.50/-. Tularam died in 1850, and two of his sons held the country for two and a half years longer. In 1854, the tract was resumed by the British Government.

In 1839, the portion of North Cachar not included in Tularam's dominion was annexed to Nowgong and in 1853, a separate officer was placed in charge of the sub-division of North Cachar with head-quarters at Asalu. In 1854, Tularam's territory was added to this officer's charge. In the same year, four *mauzas* comprising the estate known as "Mahal-Jamunamukh" were transferred to this sub-division from Nowgong. The sub-division was then administered in all departments by a Junior Assistant Commissioner, as defined in the Assam Code, under the Commissioner of Assam, all civil and criminal appeals going to the Deputy Commissioner (afterwards called Judicial Commissioner of Assam).

In 1867, the sub-division of North Cachar was abolished and a portion of it including Asalu was transferred to the district of South Cachar. In 1868, Mr. Edgar, the Deputy Commissioner of South Cachar, made several suggestions for the administration of the hill villages thus transferred to him. Nothing, however, was done until 1880 when the

North Cachar Hills were formed into a sub-division of the Cachar district with head-quarters at Khanjang (Gunjong) ; and placed in charge of an Assistant Superintendent of Police. In 1884, the Frontier tract Regulation (11 of 1880) was extended to the North Cachar Hills by a Notification. The same Notification under Section 2 of the Regulation declared that certain enactments previously in force had ceased to be in force. The Scheduled Districts Act (XIV) was in force and the rules for the administration of criminal and civil justice were notified under Section 6. The greater part of Assam Land and Revenue Regulation was also extended to the hills in 1896 and in 1900. Section 1 of the then Settlement Rules of the Province was extended in order to provide a basis for settlement of land for special cultivation. But in 1930, the applicable portions were reduced to Sections 1, 2, 69, 94 and 144 A and the Schedule. In 1895, the head-quarters of the sub-division were transferred to Haflong.¹

The Karbi Anglong which was then known as Mikir Hills in the district of Nowgong, was originally constituted by a Notification under the Assam Frontier Tracts Regulation in 1884. In 1898, part of this area was transferred to Sibsagar while part of the Naga Hills district was transferred partly to Nowgong and partly to Sibsagar. The amended boundaries of the Nowgong and Sibsagar and Mikir Hills Tracts were notified in 1907. A slight modification was made in 1913-14, when the area round Dimapur was transferred to the Naga Hills. The erstwhile Mikir Hills Tracts, therefore, fell within the districts of Nowgong and Sibsagar. The Assam Land and Revenue Regulation was extended to the district of Nowgong in 1886 and was, therefore, in force in the greater portion of the Karbi Anglong.²

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP OF THE DISTRICT AND ITS SUB-DIVISIONS.

The present district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills came into being on 17th November, 1951 with two sub-divisions of the Karbi Anglong and the North Cachar Hills with head-quarters at Diphu and Haflong respectively. The sub-division was constituted with the areas which comprised the partially excluded areas of the districts of Nowgong and Sibsagar known as Mikir Hills Tracts in those districts and the Bhoi area of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills predominantly inhabited by the Karbi with a view to bringing the hitherto scattered Karbi people under one administration for their all-round improvement. The

North Cachar Hills sub-division remained the same as it was before under the district of Cachar. The Constitution of India gave the status of an Autonomous District to both the North Cachar Hills and the Karbi Anglong like other autonomous districts of Assam, and it was found expedient to unite these two autonomous areas to form into one district administration while keeping intact the autonomous status of each of these area. Thus, two autonomous areas have been brought under one administrative structure having two separate District Councils independent of each other, while there is one Deputy Commissioner for the district with his headquarters at Diphu.

The general administration of the district is vested, like other plains districts, in the Deputy Commissioner who remains in the immediate charge of the Karbi Anglong and is allowed as his immediate assistants two Extra Assistant Commissioners and two Sub-Deputy Collectors. The North Cachar Hills sub-division is entrusted to one Sub-Divisional Officer with two Extra-Assistant Commissioners and one Sub-Deputy Collector as his assistants.

Besides general administration, the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for administration of justice and maintenance of law and order in the district. The Deputy Commissioner hears appeals from the lower courts and exercises power as District Magistrate as well as Session Judge for this district.

Since Independence, planning and development work has become the primary responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner. As the Community Development Blocks are under the direct control and supervision of the Deputy Commissioner he is the Chairman of the Sub-Divisional Development Board, Karbi Anglong, and the Block Development Committees in Karbi Anglong whereas the Sub-Divisional Officer, Haflong is the Chairman of the Sub-Divisional Development Board, North Cachar Hills and the Block Development Committees in North Cachar Hills.

In the development works, they are assisted by Sub-Divisional Planning Officers, posted at Diphu and Haflong who act as a liaison officers between the Community Development Blocks and the Deputy Commissioner and Sub-Divisional Officer in the respective areas.

Agricultural loan, test relief, arms and explosives, issuing of passports, granting of citizenship certificates, supplies, excise, election etc.

1. *The Assam Land Revenue Manual* Vol-I. (Fifth Edition)

2- *Ibid*

are such other subjects dealt with by his office. He is also the District Transport Officer of the district. Besides, he is the ex-officio Chairman of the various committees and boards in the district.

For maintenance of law and order in the district, the Deputy Commissioner is assisted by a Superintendent of Police situated at Diphu, the district headquarters and by a Sub-Divisional Police Officer at Haflong, the sub-divisional headquarters. In his own establishment, the Deputy Commissioner maintains several branches for administration of other subjects, the most important ones being Supplies, Excise, Elections, Magistracy, Establishment, Agricultural loans, Test relief, Arms and Explosives, Passports and, Citizenship, Treasury and Accounts, *Nazarat* etc. With all these branches, Deputy Commissioner's Office appears to be a miniature secretariat. However, unlike plains districts, the Deputy Commissioner of this district has no revenue powers, revenue being a District Council subject. Supply and Excise departments have separate district officers and there is also a separate Sub-Divisional Election Office but these functions as branches under amalgamated establishment of the Deputy Commissioner. Each of the Excise and the Supply office is headed by a District Superintendent while the Election Office is headed by an Election Officer.

Among the branches in his own establishment, the Magistracy is the most important. It deals with issue of arms licences, matters relating to law and order situation in the district, disposal of criminal cases in various courts of Magistrates, matters relating to compensation under Workmen's Compensation Act. Till recently, one of the Magistrates remained in charge of the Treasury. A Treasury Officer has now been posted at Diphu. The Treasury not only deals with Government bills and vouchers, but also maintains a huge stock of various kinds of stamps which are distributed among various agencies.

The *Nazarat* branch is headed by a member of the ministerial staff designated as *Nazir* who is assisted by one or two Assistant *Nazirs*. The *Nazir* is the Cashier of the Deputy Commissioner's Office. He maintains the accounts of stores and receipts from the Circuit House and Dak-Bungalow under the Deputy Commissioner and assists in all processes.

The Office of Sub-Divisional Officer at Haflong in the North Cachar Hills is a prototype of the Deputy Commissioner's Office at Diphu with similar number of branches and officers. But there is no separate Elec-

tion Officer at Haflong and the Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) performs the election duties. Election works are not so heavy there, being only one Assembly Constituency for the whole Sub-division. The Supply and Excise have one Inspector each at Haflong under the Superintendents at Diphu, but under the immediate control of the Sub-Divisional Officer.

THE DISTRICT AS AN AUTONOMOUS HILLS DISTRICT.

According to the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, the district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills was composed of two autonomous districts, i.e., (1) the Autonomous District of Karbi Anglong and (2) Autonomous District of North Cachar Hills, each having a separate District Council independent of each other.

Administration of each autonomous district is vested in a District Council which has legislative, executive, financial and judicial powers.

Legislative powers : The District Council has legislative power to make laws with respect to (1) administration of land, (2) management of forest, not being a reserved forest, (3) use of canal or water-course for the purpose of agriculture, (4) regulation of the practice of *jhum* or other forms of shifting cultivation, (5) establishment of village or town committees or councils and their powers, (6) any other matter relating to village or town administration including village or town police and public health and sanitation, (7) the appointment of successors of the chief or the headman, (8) inheritance of property, (9) marriage, (10) social customs, and (11) money-lending.

Judicial powers : The District Council is also empowered to constitute village councils or courts for the trial of suits and cases between parties all of whom belong to scheduled tribes and appoint suitable persons to be members of Village Councils or Presiding Officers of those courts. With the previous approval of the Governor, the District Council is empowered to make rules regulating the constitution of Village Councils or Courts and the powers to be exercised, the procedure to be followed by the Village Councils or Courts in the trial of suits and cases, the enforcement of the decision and order of such councils and courts and all other ancillary matters.

Executive powers : It is also within their power to establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, cattle pounds, ferries, roads and water ways and to prescribe the language and the manner in which the primary education shall be imparted in the primary schools of the district.

Financial powers : They can as well levy and collect revenue and taxes on animals and boats, taxes on vehicles including motor vehi-

cles, tolls on passengers and goods carried on ferries, taxes for the maintenance of schools and dispensaries and roads. They are also entitled to the share of the royalties on minerals found within their areas.

A District Council has a tenure for five years unless it is dissolved earlier by the Governor. Each District Council has a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman, elected by its members. An administrative officer of the Central or State Civil Service is posted in each District Council to act as its Secretary. Each of the District Councils has an Executive Committee consisting of one Chief Executive Member elected out of the members of the District Council, and two other Executive Members appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Executive Member from amongst the members of the District Council. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman are not eligible to hold office either as Chief Executive Members or as a Member of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Members of the District Councils enjoy the position which is analogous to the status of a Minister in the State. Each of them holds charge of some independent portfolios on some of the subjects of administration and development pertaining to the district in question and the administrative officers placed at the disposal of the District Council act as Executive Secretaries in the matter of subjects assigned to them.

By a notification, the Governor may direct that any Act of Parliament or that of State Legislature shall not apply to the autonomous district or shall apply to such district or any part thereof subject to such exceptions and modifications as he may specify in the notification. The Governor may at any time appoint a commission to examine and report on any matters specified by him relating to the administration of autonomous district in the State. If at any time, the Governor is satisfied that an act or resolution of the District Council is likely to endanger the safety of India, he may annul or suspend such act or resolution. He may take such steps as he may consider necessary to prevent the commission or continuance of such act or giving effect to such resolutions. Any order made by the Governor shall be laid before the Legislature of the State as soon as it is possible and the order shall, unless revoked earlier by the Legislature, continue to be in force for a period of 12 months from the date on which it was so made.

On the recommendations of the Commission, the Governor may order the dissolution of a District Council and direct that a fresh general election shall be held for the reconstitution of the Council. With the approval of the State Legislature, he may assume the administration of the area himself or put the same under a Commission or any other body considered suitable by him.

The Governor is empowered to make rules for the first constitution of the District Council in consultation with the existing Tribal Councils or other representatives of tribal organisations within the Autonomous District. Those rules shall provide for the composition of the District Council and the allocations of seats therein and the delimitation of territorial constituencies for purposes of elections to the Councils, the qualifications for voting at such elections and the preparations of electoral rolls, the term of office of the members of the councils, the procedure and conduct of business in the District Council and the appointment of officers and staff of the district.⁴

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India and the rules framed thereunder by the Governor of Assam, the two District Councils consisting of sixteen members each for Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Districts were constituted in the years 1951 and 1952 respectively. Out of these, 12 members were elected by adult franchise and 4 were nominated by the Governor. The term of the District Council is 5 years from the date of appointment for its meeting unless dissolved earlier. The said period may be extended by the Governor, by notification in the Gazette for a period not exceeding one year at a time. The District Council shall meet every three months. In the event of an emergency, the chairman of the District Council with the previous approval of the Governor or on receipt of a requisition signed shall summon a meeting of the District Council at a short notice.

To preside over the meeting of the District Council and to perform such other functions akin to the functions of the State Legislature, there is a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman for each District Council. They are directly elected by the members of the respective District Council and continue to function till they enjoy the confidence of the House (District Council).

The District Council for an autonomous district in respect of all areas within the district have power to make or amend laws, regulations and rules in respect of matters falling within the purview of the District Council as specified in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution. All such proposals to make or amend laws, regulations and rules are to be introduced in the District Council in the form of Bills. Bills introduced on behalf of the Executive Committee are termed as official Bills and by the members of the District Council in their individual rights are private

4. The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

members Bills. No Bill shall be introduced in the District Council without the prior approval of the Governor. Copies of all official and private member's Bill shall be sent to the Governor through the Deputy Commissioner sufficiently in advance for publication in the Gazette and no Bill shall be published in the Gazette until the permission of the Governor to such publication has been obtained. To become law, a Bill has to pass all the stages of 1st, 2nd and 3rd readings as ordinarily prescribed for the law. When the Bill has been passed by the District Council and authenticated by the Chairman, the Secretary to the District Council shall send the authenticated copy of the Bill to the Deputy Commissioner for submission to the Governor for his assent. The Governor may assent to the Bill or may return the Bill to the District Council for reconsideration. The point or points referred to for reconsideration or the amendments recommended shall be put before the District Council by the Chairman and shall be discussed and voted upon in the same manner as amendments to a Bill. When a Bill has been passed by the District Council and a copy thereof signed by the Chairman, it shall be submitted to the Governor for his assent. After receiving the assent of the Governor, it shall be published in the Gazette and on such publication shall have the force of law.

To exercise the executive function of the District Council there is an Executive Committee for each District Council. The Executive Committee shall consist of three members with the Chief Executive Member as the head. The Chief Executive Member is elected by the District Council and two other members from amongst the members of the District Council are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Executive Member. The Executive Committee shall be collectively responsible to the District Council and may be removed on a vote of no-confidence passed by a majority of the members of the District Council at a meeting specially convened for the purpose. In case, the Executive Committee resigns or is removed on a vote of no-confidence motion and if the District Council fails to elect a new Chief Executive Member within the specified time of 48 hours, the Governor shall appoint any member of the Council to be the Chief Executive Member and two other members of the District Council as the Members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee so constituted shall continue to function until it is replaced by an Executive Committee constituted in the manner as mentioned earlier.⁵

5. Constitution of the District Councils.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF KARBI ANGLONG

The District Council of Karbi Anglong which was inaugurated on 23rd June, 1952, has 6 branches or departments working under it.

Land Revenue Branch. This branch is responsible for assessment of Land Revenue and House Tax and collection of the same. The allotment of land for various purposes and settlement of the same with *ryots* are also done by this branch. Besides these, regular revenue works, the assessment and collection of grazing tax and sale of fisheries and collection of revenues are also done by this branch. Further, all miscellaneous enquiries are also made through officers under this branch.

For revenue administration purpose, the Autonomous District of Karbi Anglong is divided into three Revenue Circles, Diphu, Phulani and Douka and each Circle is placed under the charge of the Assistant Revenue Officer. Each Revenue Circle is again sub-divided into *mauzas* and placed under the charge of the *Mauzadars* for collection of Land Revenue and House Tax. There are altogether 20 *mauzas* in this Autonomous District. Besides, one *Gaonbura* known as *Sarkari Gaonbura* for each village has been appointed to assist the *Mauzadars* in the collection of Land Revenue and House Tax. The Secretary to the District Council is the Revenue Officer of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous District.

Forest Branch : The administration of forest (Unclassed State Forest) in the Karbi Anglong under the District Council is entrusted to this branch. All matters relating to assessment and collection of royalties on various forest products together with settlement of forest *Mahals* are made by this branch.

The forests under the District Council of Karbi Anglong are divided into five ranges, viz. Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern, and Central with offices at Dalamara, Bokajan, Howraghat, Tumperang and Diphu respectively. Each range is in-charge of one Range Officer. This branch is under the overall charge of the Chief Forest Officer.

There are *Mahals* for each kind of forest products and the right to collect forest products are sold on *Mahal* basis and outside the *Mahal* area permit system is followed. The following are the *Mahals* for each kind of forest products in Karbi Anglong Autonomous District.

1. <i>Cane Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	8 Nos.
2. <i>Thatch Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	16 ..
3. <i>Pati Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	4 ..
4. <i>Medicinal Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	3 ..
5. <i>Reins Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	4 ..
6. <i>Agor Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	5 ..
7. <i>Bansolochan Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	6 ..
8. <i>Patidoi Mahol</i>	..	..	..	..	3 ..
9. <i>Sotkra Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	1 ..
10. <i>Dhuna Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	3 ..
11. <i>Chalmugra Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	3 ..
12. <i>Rubber Mahal</i>	..	..	..	..	1 ..

Total 57 Nos.

General Administration Branch : This branch is responsible for execution of policies laid down by the District Council. In the General Administration, the legislative side of the District Council is also merged. On the legislative side all matters relating to summoning of the Sessions of the District Council, questions, resolutions, motions, drafting of Bill etc., pay and T.A. bills of the Members, Chairman, Deputy Chairman and all other matters relating to Sessions of the District Council and Sub-Committees formed by it including preparation of proceedings and circulation of all such papers to the Members are dealt with. The following are the Acts passed by the District Council of Karbi Anglong since its inception :-

1. Constitution of the Mikir Hills District Council Act, 1952.
2. The Mikir Hills (Revenue Assessment Regulation No. 11 of 1952.
3. The Mikir Hills Grazing Regulation of 1953.
4. The Mikir Hills (Money Lending By Non-Tribals) Regulation, 1953.
5. The Mikir Hills (Trading By Non-Tribals) Regulation, 1953.
6. The Mikir Hills (Land And Revenue) Act, 1953.
7. The Mikir Hills (Jhuming) Regulation, 1953.
8. The Mikir Hills (Autonomous District Administration Of Justice) Rules, 1954.
9. The Mikir Hills (Cart And Boat, (Taxation) Act, 1954.

10. The Mikir Hills Market (Management And Control) Act, 1954.
11. The Mikir Hills District Fishery Bills of 1955.
12. The Mikir Hills (Money Lending By Non-Tribals) Rules, 1955.
13. The Mikir Hills (Trading By Non-Tribals) Rules, 1956.
14. The Mikir Hills (Transfer Of Land) Regulation No. 1 of 1956.
15. The Mikir Hills District (Forest) Act, 1957.
16. The Mikir Hills District (Land And Revenue) Amendment, Act, 1958.
17. The Mikir Hills District (Member's Salary And Allowances) Act, 1958.
18. The Mikir Hills (Dy. Chairman's Salary And Allowances) Act, 1958.
19. The Mikir Hills (Salaries and Allowances Of Executive Members) Act, 1958.
20. The Mikir Hills District (Administration Of Town Committee) Act, 1954.
21. The Mikir Hills District (Constitution Of Town Committee) Rules, 1958.
22. The Mikir Hills District (Local Rates) Regulation, 1953.
23. The Mikir Hills District (Transfer Of Land) Act, 1959.
24. The Mikir Hills District (Christian Marriage) Act, 1962.
25. The Mikir Hills District (Trading By Non-Tribals) Amendment Bill, 1962.
26. The Mikir Hills District (Professions, Trades, Callings And Employment Taxation) Bill, 1962.

On the executive side, besides exercising general supervision over all the branches under the District Council, this branch is primarily responsible for (1) dealing in matters of policy of the District Council, (2) holding of Executive Committee's meetings, (3) preparation of budget, (4) financial affairs including preparation and sanction of various works schemes, (5) correspondences with the Government and other offices, (6) supply and maintenance of stationery stores and papers, forms, library, furniture, (7) appointment, transfer, pay, T.A., leave, etc., of all the

employees under the District Council, (8) maintenance of member's hostel, (9) maintenance of vehicles, (10) maintenance of accounts and cash, (11) settlement of contracts, (12) registration of contractors.

Education branch : This branch is responsible for management of Lower Primary Schools including establishment of new schools, maintenance and improvement or inspection etc. As mentioned elsewhere, under para 6 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, the District Council of the Autonomous District is empowered to establish, construct and manage Primary Schools and prescribe the language and the manner in which Primary Education shall be imparted in the Primary Schools in the Autonomous District. Accordingly, all the Government Lower Primary Schools in the Autonomous District of Karbi Anglong have been transferred to the District Council of Karbi Anglong on 1.8.61. Primary Education in Karbi Anglong is now managed by the District Board of Primary Education consisting of 9 members. The Executive Member of the District Council in-charge of the Education portfolio is the Chairman of the District Board of Primary Education of Karbi Anglong. Deputy Inspector of Schools of Karbi Anglong is the ex-officio Secretary of the Board. The rest of the members are nominated by the District Council. Prior to the transfer of the Government Lower Primary Schools to the District Council, it had under its management 97 Lower Primary Schools with an enrolment of 13,068 in 1960-61.

Works branch : All the development and normal construction works under the District Council are executed through this branch. These include construction of buildings, road, bridges, culverts, ringwells, irrigation dams and channels and their maintenance together with maintenance of stores in connection therewith. Since the inception of the District Council, this branch has constructed 424.37 miles of roads and 264 ringwells in the Karbi Anglong.

Taxes branch : The administration of Mikir Hills District (Trading By Non-Tribals) Regulation, 1953, the Mikir Hills District (Money Lending By Non-Tribals) Regulation, 1953, and the Mikir Hills District (Cart, Cycle And Boat) Taxation Act, 1954, including issue of licenses and registration of carts, boats, vehicles, etc., is done by this branch. The sale of weekly markets and collection of revenue and taxes thereof are also done by this branch.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTH CACHAR HILLS.

The administrative set-up of the District Council of North Cachar Hills is composed of three units, legislative, judiciary and executive.

Legislative Department : All matters relating to the summoning of Sessions of the District Council, questions, resolutions, motions, drafting of bills etc., pay and T.A. bills of the Members, Chairman, Deputy Chairman and all other matters relating to Sessions of the District Council and Sub-Committees formed by it including preparation of proceedings and circulation of all such papers to the members are dealt with by this department. Following are the Acts and Regulations enacted by the District Council of North Cachar Hills since its inception :

List of Regulations

1. The North Cachar Hills Land And Revenue (Adoption Of Assam Land And Revenue Regulation And Rules) Act, 1953.
2. The North Cachar Hills District Taxes Regulation, 1953.
3. The North Cachar Hills District Revenue Assessment Regulation, 1953.
4. The North Cachar Hills District (Trading By Non-Tribals) Regulation, 1954.
5. The North Cachar Hills District Taxes Amendment Regulation, 1955.
6. The North Cachar Hills District (Taxes) (Amendment) Act, 1958.
7. The North Cachar Hills District Taxes On Entry Of Goods Into The Market Regulation, 1956.

List of Acts.

1. The North Cachar Hills District Salaries And Allowances Of The Executive Members Act, 1955.
2. The North Cachar Hills District (Deputy Chairman's Salary And Allowances) Act, 1955.
3. The North Cachar Hills District (Member's Salary And Allowances) Act, 1955.
4. The Constitution Of The North Cachar Hills District Council (Amendment) Act, 1955.
5. The Constitution Of The North Cachar Hills District Council (Second Amendment) Act, 1956.
6. The North Cachar Hills District (Administration Of Town Committees) Act, 1956.
7. The Constitution Of The North Cachar Hills District Council (Third Amendment) Act, 1957.
8. The Constitution Of The North Cachar Hills District Taxes (Amendment) Act, 1958.

9. The Constitution Of North Cachar Hills District Council (Fourth Amendment) Act, 1958.
10. The Constitution Of North Cachar Hills District Council (Fifth Amendment) Act, 1958.
11. The North Cachar Hills District (Member's Salary And Allowances) (Amendment) Act, 1959.
12. The North Cachar Hills District (Christian Marriage) Act, 1960.
13. The North Cachar Hills District (Deputy Chairman's Salary And Allowances) (Amendment) Act, 1960.
14. The North Cachar Hills District (Chairman's Salary And Allowances) Act, 1960.

List of Rules.

1. The North Cachar Hills Autonomous District (Administration Of Justice) Rules, 1955.
2. The North Cachar Hills District (Trading By Non-Tribal) Rules, 1955.
3. The North Cachar Hills District (Members' Travelling And Halting Allowances) Rules, 1962.

Judiciary Department : The Judiciary under the District Council of North Cachar Hills consists of two courts, i.e., the District Council Court and the Subordinate District Council Court. There is one Judge for the District Council Court and a Subordinate Judge for the Subordinate District Council Court. The District Council Court exercises its judicial functions as an appellate authority against the orders and decisions of the Subordinate District Council Court. The Subordinate District Council Court exercises its powers both in its original jurisdiction as well as an appellate authority for hearing appeals against the decision of the Village Councils.

The District Council Courts are entitled to try suits and cases between parties all of whom belong to the Scheduled tribes other than suits and cases arising out of any law in force in the autonomous district being a law specified in that behalf by the Governor or for the trial of offences punishable with death, transportation for life or imprisonment for a term of not less than 5 years under the Indian Penal Code or under any law for the time being in force in the district. The courts are directly subordinate to the Gauhati High Court.

Executive Department : The Executive side of the North Cachar Hills District Council consists of 4 Departments i.e., General & Revenue, Forest Department, Financial Affairs and Public Works.

General and Revenue : The Department is sub-divided into five branches of Revenue, Education, Markets and Town, Miscellaneous and General.

Revenue Branch : This branch is responsible for assessment of Land Revenue and House Tax and collection of the same. The allotment of land for various purposes and settlement of the same with *ryots* are also done by this branch. Besides these, regular revenue works, the assessment and collection of grazing tax and sale of fisheries and collection of revenue thereof are also done by this branch.

The whole of North Cachar Hills is one unit for the purpose of the revenue administration. There are 19 *mauzas* in the district, but they are not territorially delimited. Instead, they are constituted tribe-wise, the larger tribes such as Kacharis and the Nagas having more than one *mauza*. As the different tribes live interspersed in many areas, those *mauzas* naturally overlap territorially. *Mauzadars* are the commissioned revenue collection agencies. They also perform other functions such as inquiry into and settlement of boundary disputes, collection of taxes on animals etc.

The Secretary to the Executive Committee is the Revenue Officer of the District Council who exercises such powers as are invested in the Deputy Commissioner under the Regulation of 1886. Appeal against the order of the Revenue Officer lies with the Executive Member-in-charge of the Land Revenue portfolio.

Education Branch : This branch is solely responsible for management of the Primary Schools under its control such as establishment of Primary Schools, appointment of teachers. The District Council of North Cachar Hills had only six Lower Primary Schools and two Venture Lower Primary Schools under its control in the year 1963. The District Council is also giving grants-in-aid to the Venture Lower Primary Schools and the M.E. Schools under its jurisdiction. Unlike in Karbi Hills Autonomous District, the Lower Primary Schools and Junior Basic Schools continue to be managed by the State Government.

Markets and Town Branch : The sale of weekly markets and collection of revenue taxes thereof are done by this branch. There are altogether 6 weekly markets in North Cachar Hills Autonomous District.

Miscellaneous and General Branch : Leaving aside the matters dealt with by the above branches, the remaining subjects or matters are dealt by these two branches.

List of Offices of the State Government in Karbi Anglong.

1. Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Diphu.
2. Office of the Superintendent of Police, Diphu.
3. Office of the Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies Diphu.
4. Office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Diphu.
5. Office of the District Agriculture Officer, Diphu.
6. Office of the District Statistical Officer, Diphu.
7. Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (R & B.), Diphu.
8. Office of the Sub-Divisional Officer, P.W.D. (E & D), Diphu.
9. Office of the Superintendent of Cottage and Small Scale Industries, Diphu.
10. Office of the Assistant Employment Officer, Diphu.
11. Office of the Civil Surgeon, Diphu.
12. Office of the Superintendent of Excise, Diphu.
13. Office of District Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Officer, Diphu.
14. Office of the Weaving Inspector, Diphu.
15. Office of the Divisional Forest Officer (Soil Conservation) Diphu.
16. Office of the District Information and Public Relations Officer, Diphu.
17. Office of the District Research Officer, Diphu.
18. Office of the District Compiler, Revision of District Gazetteer, Diphu.
19. Office of the Supply Inspector, Diphu.
20. Office of the Cocoon Marketing Inspector, Diphu.
21. Office of the Weights and Measures Inspector, Diphu.
22. Office of the Secretary, District Council, Mikir Hills, Diphu.
23. Office of the Assistant Malaria Officer, Diphu.
24. Office of the Head Master, Government High School, Diphu.
25. Office of the Block Development Officer, Howraghat.
26. Office of the Block Development Officer, Rongkhang.
27. Office of the Block Development Officer, Bokajan.
28. Office of the Block Development Officer, Socheng.
29. Office of the Block Development Officer, Lumbajang.
30. Office of the Block Development Officer, Nilip.
31. Office of the Block Development Officer, Amri.
32. Office of the Fishery Officer, Diphu.
33. Office of the Goitre Unit, Diphu.
34. Office of the Sericulture Inspector, Diphu.

In North Cachar Hills.

1. Office of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Haflong.
2. Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (R & B.), Haflong.
3. Office of the Sub-Divisional Information and Public Relations Officer, Haflong.
4. Office of the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer, Haflong.
5. Office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Haflong.
6. Office of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Co-operative Societies, Haflong.
7. Office of the Weaving Inspector, Haflong.
8. Office of the Sericulture Inspector, Haflong.
9. Office of the Fishery Officer, Haflong.
10. Office of the Sub-Divisional Medical and Health Officer, Haflong.
11. Office of the Sub-Divisional Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Officer, Haflong.
12. Office of the Head Master, Govt. High School, Haflong.
13. Office of the Supply Inspector, Haflong.
14. Office of the Block Development Officer, Jatinga Valley, Maibong.
15. Office of the Secretary, District Council, North Cachar Hills, Haflong.
16. Office of the Superintendent of Railway Police, Haflong.

CHAPTER—XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Section-1, Land Revenue :

Under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, the power to assess and collect Land Revenue in the Autonomous Districts of Assam is vested in the District Councils of those districts. As the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district is composed of the two autonomous districts, i.e., the Karbi Anglong Autonomous District and North Cachar Hills Autonomous District, the revenue administration of this district is vested in the District Council of the respective autonomous district.

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION IN KARBI ANGLONG :

(a) Collector and his Staff : Historical Role : Present set up :

Before the inauguration of this newly constituted district and the appointment of the Deputy Commissioner, an Officer designated as 'Special Officer' was appointed to give shape to this new district. The formal inauguration took place on 17th November, 1951 and the Deputy Commissioner took over the charge of the district. He also functioned as Superintendent of Police till August, 1958. Land Revenue being the subject of the District Council of Karbi Anglong, he was mainly busy with collection of land records from the parent districts of Sibsagar, Nowgong and Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Land Revenue Administration with its staff was transferred to the Karbi Anglong District Council on 23-6-52. Hence, thereafter all matters relating to this branch, such as settlement of land, fisheries, *hats* etc. and collection and assessment of revenue were dealt with by the Karbi Anglong District Council and Deputy Commissioner has since ceased to function as collector in this branch of Revenue Administration. The Circle System of Land Revenue Administration was brought into force in this autonomous district from the year, Land Revenue Administration was transferred to the Karbi Anglong District Council.

For Land Revenue Administration, the Autonomous District of Karbi Anglong is divided into three revenue circles of Diphu, Phuloni and Donkamokam with an area of 1,591, 1,232 and 1,174 sq. miles (2,560

sq. kms, 1,983 sq. kms, 1,889 sq. kms, respectively. A sub-circle is also being created at Borpathar from the Diphu Revenue Circle. Each of these circles is placed under the charge of the Assistant Revenue Officer. Each Revenue Circle is again subdivided into *mauzas* for collection of Land Revenue and House Tax. There are altogether 20 *mauzas* in this autonomous district. Besides, there is one *Gaonbura* known as 'Sarkari Gaonbura' in each village to assist the *Mauzadar*s in collection of Land Revenue and House Tax. Apart from two *mauzas*, namely, Block 1 and Block 11 under Donkamokam Circle, all other *mauzas* are under the charge of a *Mauzadar*. Each *Mauzadar* is responsible for collection of Land Revenue and House Tax within his *mauza* and the procedure of collection of Land Revenue is the same as that in the plains districts of Assam. In fact, Karbi Anglong District Council adopted Assam Land And Revenue Regulation, 1886 and rules framed thereunder by enacting The Mikir Hills District (Land And Revenue) Act, 1953.

Block 1 and Block 11 *mauzas* were constituted by the State Government before the constitution of this District Council and were formerly a part of Khasi and Jaintia Hills district. Instead of a *Mauzadar* for each of these areas, there are several *Doloiship* and *Dolois* who were appointed by racial descent having authority to collect revenue from his clansmen wherever they reside. In these two areas, this practice is still continuing.

The Land Revenue Branch of the District Council is responsible for assessment of Land Revenue, House Tax and Local Rate and collection of the same. Allotment of land for various purposes and settlement of land with the individuals are done by this branch in accordance with the District Council's Land Distribution Policy. Over and above, the regular revenue works, the assessment and collection of grazing tax and leasing of fisheries and collection of revenue therefrom are also done by this branch. All miscellaneous enquiries are also made through the officers under this branch. The Assistant Revenue Officers are also the Ex-Officio Grazing Superintendent within their respective jurisdiction and exercise supervision over collection of grazing tax and control over the *khutis* under the Mikir Hills Grazing Act, 1954. The Assistant Revenue Officers also supervise the work of taxation branch concerning their respective areas. They are also responsible for the administration of The Mikir Hills District (Trading By Non-Tribals) Act, 1953 and The Mikir Hills District (Cart, Cycle And Boat) Taxation Act, 1954 including issue of licences and registration of carts, boats, vehicles etc.

The highest Official of the District Council in the Karbi Anglong is the Secretary to the District Council and is responsible for the over-

all working of the District Council. He is also the Revenue Officer and exercises such powers as are conferred upon the Deputy Commissioner under The Assam Land And Revenue Regulation, 1886. An appeal preferred against the order of the Assistant Revenue Officer lies to the Revenue Officer and an appeal against the order of the Revenue Officer shall lie to the Chief Executive Member, Karbi Anglong District Council, within sixty days from the date of order appealed against excluding the time needed for obtaining a copy of the order.

(b) **THE HISTORY OF THE LAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF INSTITUTION OF RYOTWARY, ZEMINDARY AND OTHER FORMS OF THE MANAGEMENT**

The history of Land Revenue Administration in Karbi Anglong may be traced back to the period when Karbis driven out from North Cachar Hills by Kacharis, took refuge in Jaintia. Meeting with the same treatment, some migrated to Dimaru, Beltola and Rani in the district of Kamrup and the remainder took up the present abode. Here also Karbis were subjected to continued demands from their neighbouring States. Their chief reliance, however, was the Ahom Kings who appointed their principal chief over the whole clan and collected a tribute from them in kind valued at about Rs.338 - per annum. The articles given were¹ :

(1)	300 bundles of Cotton.	Rs. 300 -
(2)	300 bamboo mats.	Rs. 10 -
(3)	300 bundles of <i>nalooks</i> the bark of a tree used as perfume.	Rs. 16 -
(4)	300 <i>Sanchee pat</i> the bark of a tree used as a paper to write on.	Rs. 12 -
Total		Rs. 338 -

In consideration of submitting to pay tribute to the *Rajah* of Assam, a strip of land called *Mikir Pahar* at the foot of Karbi Anglong was granted to Karbis under the *Khelwari* system for 161 rupees 8 *annas* and 11 *pice*. On abolition of *Khelwari* system and introduction of *Mauzadari* system in 1835-36 A.D., the revenue amounted to 502 rupees 7 *annas* 10 *pice*. With the change of the system, the *Mahal* of *Mikir Pahar* was also divided into nine *mauzas* and it was ceased to be managed by the Karbis. Four *bils* or lakes and five ferries were also granted to the Karbis rent-free by the *Rajah* of Assam. The total value of the lakes and ferries was about rupees fifty and eight *annas*. The amount was realised not in cash

1. J. Butler : *Travels & Adventures In The Province Of Assam*.

but in kind and these were not the perquisites of any chief but of the whole tribe. Each ferry paid annually to the Karbis twelve *pura* of rice, i.e., four *maunds* and twelve *seers*. But as the Karbis could not produce any *sunmad* or deed of gift, lakes and ferries were resumed by the Collector and brought them on the regular rent roll of the district. The Karbis also asserted that they had a grant of 1000 *puras* of land styled as *ankar* granted to them by the *Rajah* of Assam, but as they failed to produce any deed of gift, the claim was disallowed.

In 1837-38, the system of taking the tribute in kind was abolished and the Karbis were formed into three imaginary grades or classes and taxed at a certain rate for each grade though amongst them no such grade or rank existed. Thus, it was the first revenue settlement affected with Karbis in 1837-38 A.D. and yielded a net revenue of Rs. 1,711.50. This assessment of Karbis in grades or classes in a trial of two years did not produce satisfactory result and it was expedient to further simplify the system. A uniform rate of Rs. 2.25 per house was adopted for the whole tribe irrespective of the fact that house is small or big capable of containing one family or two or any extent of land they thought proper to cultivate. This assessment in 1839-40 yielded a net revenue of Rs. 1,547.44. The Karbis are in the habit of shifting their dwellings to different part of the hills in search of fresh land for cultivation. As such, it was necessary to conclude a new settlement every year with their chiefs and this also led to fluctuations in revenue collection.

The Rengma Nagas in Karbi Anglong were brought under revenue settlement in Feb., 1847, when Captain Butler, Principal Assistant, induced several of the most influential to visit Nowgong. On this occasion, Rengma Nagas agreed to be taxed at one rupee per house and gave written undertaking to that effect. The revenue collected amounted to Rs. 525/- of which Rs. 65.62 was paid as commission.²

In 1884, Karbi Anglong was constituted into the Mikir Hills Tract in the district of Nowgong by a notification under the Assam Frontier Tracts Regulation. In 1898, part of this area was transferred to Sibsagar while part of the Naga Hills district was transferred partly to Nowgong and partly to Sibsagar. A slight modification was made in 1913-14, when the area around Dimapur was retransferred to the Naga Hills. Thus, the Karbi Anglong Autonomous District, as now constituted, formed part of the Sibsagar and Nowgong District except the Bhoi area which formed part of the Jowai sub-division of U. K. & J. Hills. In the

2. J. Butler : *Travels & Adventures In The Province Of Assam*.

hill areas of both the districts, House Tax was levied @ Rs.3/- per house (raised since 1920) and Rs.6/- per house in villages having less than ten houses. There was a considerable plains area which was assessed to ordinary Land Revenue. The Assam Land And Revenue Regulation, 1886 was extended to the district of Nowgong in 1886 and to the area transferred from Naga Hills in 1924. The ordinary Land Revenue demand of Karbi Anglong in 1928-29 amounted to Rs.7,553/- in Sibsaigar and Rs. 39,294/- in Nowgong. Their miscellaneous Land Revenue demand was Rs.12,870/- and 24,169/- in Nowgong district.³

After Independence, Karbi Anglong came to be constituted as one of the Autonomous District of Assam and powers to collect and assess Land Revenue and to make laws concerning the allotment, occupation or use of land is vested with the District Council under para 8 and 3 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. In accordance with the above provisions, Land Revenue Administration in the Autonomous Districts of Karbi Anglong (erstwhile Mikir Hills) was transferred to the District Council of Karbi Anglong with its inception. Following are the provisions empowering the District Council of the Revenue Administration under Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India :-

Para 8 "POWERS TO ASSESS AND COLLECT LAND REVENUE AND TO IMPOSE TAXES" : (1) The Regional Council for an autonomous region in respect of all land within such region and the District Council for an autonomous district in respect of all lands within the district except those which are in the areas under the authority of Regional Council, if any, within the district ; shall have the power to assess and collect revenue in respect of such lands in accordance with the principles for the time being followed by the Government of Assam in assessing lands for the purpose of Land Revenue in the State of Assam generally.

(2) The Regional Council for an autonomous region in respect of areas within such region and the District Council, for a autonomous District in respect of all areas in the district except those which are under the authority of Regional Council, if any, within the district, shall have power to levy and collect taxes on lands and buildings and tolls on persons resident within such areas.

(3) The District Council for an autonomous district shall have the power to levy and collect all or any of the following taxes within such district, that is to say -

3. The Assam Land & Revenue Manual, Volume I, Eighth Edition ppC,XXV - CXIVX1

- (a) taxes on professions, trades, callings and employment ;
- (b) taxes on animals, vehicles and boats ;
- (c) taxes on the entry of goods into a market for sale therein, and tolls on passengers and goods carried in ferries ;
- (d) taxes for the maintenance of schools, dispensaries or road ;

(4) A Regional Council or District Council as the case may be, may make regulations to provide for the levy and collection of any of the taxes specified in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) of this paragraph.

Para 3 Powers of the District Councils and Regional Councils to make laws :- (1) The Regional Council for an autonomous region in respect of all areas within such region and the District Council for an autonomous district in respect of all areas within the district except those which are under the authority of Regional Councils, if any, within the district shall have power to make laws with respect to-

(a) the allotment, occupation or use, or the setting part of land other than any land which is a reserved forest, for the purposes of agriculture or grazing or for residential or other non-agricultural purposes or for any other purposes likely to promote the interests of the inhabitants of any village or town ;

Provided that nothing in such laws shall prevent the compulsory acquisition of any land, whether occupied or unoccupied for public purposes by the Government of Assam in accordance with the law for the time being in force authorising such acquisition ;

- (b) the management of any forest not being a reserved forest ;
- (c) the use of any canal or water course for the purpose of agriculture ;
- (d) the regulation of the practice of *jhum* or other forms of shifting cultivation ;
- (e) the establishment of village or town committees or councils and their powers ;
- (f) any other matter relating to village or town administration, including village or town police and public health and sanitation ;
- (g) the appointment or succession of chiefs or headman ;

(h) inheritance of property ;

(i) marriage ;

(j) social customs ;

(2) In this paragraph a "reserved forest" means any area which is reserved forest under the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891, or under any other law for the time being in force in the area in question.

(3) All laws made under this paragraph shall be submitted forth with to the Government and until assented to by the Governor shall have no effect.

In accordance with the powers conferred under the above stated provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, the District Council had adopted The Assam Land And Revenue Regulation, 1886 and the rules framed thereunder by enacting The Mikir Hills (Land And Revenue) Act, 1953. The Assam Land And Revenue Regulation, 1886 is as such by and large applicable except for certain provisions in respect of ownership and transfer of land, which are regulated by The Mikir Hills District (Transfer Of Land) Act, 1959. The Assam Land And Records Manual and The Assam Land And Revenue Assessment Act, 1936 have also been followed in this autonomous district by the Karbi Anglong District Council. In the matter of survey, assessment and settlement, the same procedure is adopted as is in the plains districts of Assam. The Lands are directly settled with the individuals and so, there is no other form of settlement except the *ryotwari* system.

With the creation of the District Council, Karbi Anglong, on 23rd June, 1952, the circle system of Land Revenue Administration was introduced. The only circle, Diphu was then constituted with the entire area of Karbi Anglong Autonomous District and placed in charge of Sub-Deputy Collector, designated as Assistant Revenue Officer with Land Records Staff consisting of 2 Supervisor *Kamungo* and 12 *Mandals* only. In the year of 1956, another circle i.e. Phulani Circle was constituted with an area of 1,232 sq. miles curving out Namati, Langpher, Duardisha, Duardikharu, West Rengma and Duarbamuni *mauzas* and placed in charge of another Assistant Revenue Officer (S.D.C.) with headquarters at Phulani. The third circle, i.e., Donka Circle with an area of 1,174 sq. miles was constituted with headquarters at Donkamokam under another Assistant Revenue Officer (S.D.C.) with effect from 1959.

The following table shows the revenue circles and areas of *mauzas*, in the Karbi Anglong.

Name of the circle	Name of <i>mauza</i>	Area of <i>mauza</i> sq. miles	No. of villages in a <i>mauza</i>
1. Diphu Circle	1. Habaipur	31	35
	2. Jamunapar	603	139
	3. Borjan	276	228
	4. Sarupathar	552	19
	5. Barpathar	72	46
	6. Naga Rengma	206	13
	7. East Rengma	202	40
	8. Duarbagari	156	146
2. Phulani Circle	1. Namati	145	112
	2. Langfer	35	45
	3. Duardisha	182	100
	4. West Rengma	351	28
	5. Duardikharu	135	34
	6. Duarbamuni	24	59
	7. Duarsalona	142	46
3. Donka Circle	1. East Rongkhong	300	88
	2. West Rongkhong	156	125
	3. Duar Amala	144	75
	4. Block-1	196	68
	5. Block-11	378	152

The existing rate of assessment of the Land Revenue is unit rate, which was prevalent in the adjoining districts. This rate is still being assessed by the District Council. The hill portion had not been assessed to Land Revenue for the reasons that hill people practise shifting cultivation. A sum of Rs.3/- per house per annum for villages with more than 50 houses and Rs.6/- per house for village with less than 50 houses is realised as House Tax irrespective of the area under cultivation.

The District Council has its own Revenue Officer and Assistant Revenue Officers who are from Assam Civil Service of Class 1 and Class

The transfer of land in the Autonomous District of Karbi Anglong is subject to the approval of the Executive Committee under The Mikir Hills District (Transfer Of Land) Act, 1959. The object of passing the Act is to check the transfer of tribal land and to protect the interests of the tribal people by looking into the circumstances and merits of each case. It is provided in the Section 3 of the said Act that no land under the District Council shall be sold, mortgaged, leased, bartered, gifted or otherwise transferred by a tribal to a non-tribal or by a non-tribal to another non-tribal except with the previous permission of the Executive Committee ; provided that no permission will be necessary in the case of a lease of a building on rent. It further provided that reasons shall be recorded for any refusal of transfer from a tribal to a non-tribal or from a non-tribal to another non-tribal ; *status-quo* will be maintained in respect of rights already acquired and shall not be effected by the coming into force of this Act. It is also provided under Section 7 that all applications for sale, mortgage, lease, gift or any other form of transfer of land from a tribal to non-tribal or from a non-tribal to another non-tribal shall be made to the Secretary to the District Council and affixed with the District Council court fee of Rs.5/-.

All applications referred above shall be further accompanied with the receipts showing the payment of transfer of fee at the rates specified below :-

(i) one per cent of the sale price in case of sale subject to a minimum of Rs.25/- and maximum of Rs.1000/-.

(ii) half per cent of the value of the property as may be valued by the Chief Executive Member in case of gift subject to the maximum of Rs.500/-. The valuation of the property shall be based on the current market value of the property taking into consideration the value of the similar properties in the neighbouring area.

(iii) one per cent of the consideration money in the case of a lease subject to the maximum of Rs.500/- including short term lease for a year or a part thereof.

(iv) rupees 10/- in case of mortgage when the amounts of the mortgage is Rs.3000/- or below and Rs.1/- per every additional Rs.1000/- or a part thereof.

However, in the event of the application being rejected the transfer fee shall be refunded. Since the coming into force of this Act, the number of cases

of permission for transfer of land by the non-tribal is given below with the number of cases allowed or refused :-

Year	No. of cases	Permission allowed	Permission refused	Pending
1959-60	1	1	nil	nil
1960-61	2	1	nil	nil
1961-62	3	3	nil	nil
1962-63	2	2	nil	nil
1963-64	nil	nil	nil	nil
1964-65	4	2	nil	2
1965-66				
(upto Nov.)	3	1	1	1

Assessment : The existing rate of assessment of the Land Revenue is the unit rate which was prevalent in the adjoining districts. This rate is still being assessed by the District Council. The *bigha* rate of land revenue in this Autonomous District is comparatively very low in comparison with the *bigha* rate since revised in the neighbouring district. The lands in villages which are yet to be surveyed are assessed at flat rate of Rs. 0.56 per *bigha*, but in cadastrally surveyed villages, the rates varies from Rs. 0.31 to Rs. 2.25 according to the classification of lands. Normal classification of lands in cadastrally surveyed villages are as follows :-

Diphu Circle :—

Classes	<i>Bigha</i> rate. (in Rs.)
1. <i>Bhal Bari</i>	1.12
2. <i>Bari</i>	0.87
3. <i>Takala Bari</i>	0.43
4. <i>Da Charanpara</i>	1.00
5. <i>Bam Charanpara</i>	0.62
6. <i>Da Alatia</i>	0.75
7. <i>Bam Alatia</i>	0.43
8. <i>Da Balisahian</i>	0.56
9. <i>Bam Balisahian</i>	0.31
10. <i>Da Jalatak</i>	0.10
11. <i>Bam Jalatak</i>	0.56
12. <i>Seshukia</i>	0.31
13. <i>Faringati</i>	0.31

Phuloni Circle :

1. *Basti* 1 and 11 From Rs. 1.25 to Rs. 1.25.
2. *Rupit* From Rs. 0.75 to Rs. 1.00.
3. *Faringati* From Rs. 0.50.

The hill portion where shifting cultivation is practised, had not been assessed to Land Revenue for the reasons that the hill people practise shifting cultivation. A sum of Rs.3/- per house per annum for villages with more than 50 houses and Rs.6/- per house for villages with less than 50 houses is realised as House Tax irrespective of the area under cultivation. The enhanced rate of House Tax is to discourage the customary practice of the tribal people to form small and scattered villages.

Collection : As mentioned earlier, the method of collecting the Land Revenue and House Tax adopted in this Autonomous District is known as *Mauzadari* System except in two *mauzas* namely Block 1 and Block 11 where the institution of *Dolaiship* is still functioning. The *Dolois* are the Local Chiefs who collect taxes from his clansmen on commission basis as is enjoyed by the *Mauzadar*. In case of direct paying estates, the settlement holders pay the revenue of their respective estates directly to the District Council. The *Mauzadar* is responsible to the District Council not only for the collection of Land Revenue and House Tax on the commission basis but also for the assessment of the House Tax in the hill areas of their respective *mauzas*. A commission of 15% on first Rs. 15,000/- ; 10% on the next Rs.25,000/- ; and 5% on the rest of the collected Land Revenue (including House Tax) is given to *Mauzadars*. *Sarkari Gaonbura* gets an exemption from payment of Land Revenue upto the extent of twenty *bighas* of land and in cases, where there is no Land Revenue he is exempted from the payment of House Tax.

(d) INCOME FROM THE LAND REVENUE AND SPECIAL CESSES CONNECTED WITH IT :

The Land Revenue which is an important source of income to the District Council comes next to the Forest Revenue. The receipt from Land Revenue comes about more than 20% of the total receipt of the District Council. There is no another cess connected with Land Revenue except the Local Rate which is levied at the rate of Rs. 0.08 per rupee of Land Revenue and collected along with it. The Local Rate has been raised to Rs.0.25 with effect from 1.4.64. A detailed statement of demand collection, arrears and remission of Land Revenue is given below in the table 1.

Table 1

Statement showing the demand, collection and arrear of revenue of Karbi Anglong District Council since 1953-54 to 1965-66.

Year	DEMAND			COLLECTION				
	Current	Arrear	Total	Current	Arrear	Total	Remission	Cumulative arrear
1953-54	1,32,742	1,38,744	2,71,486	89,713	63,268	1,52,981	—	1,18,504
1954-55	1,46,077	1,63,553	3,09,630	97,777	57,707	1,55,484	482	1,54,668
1955-56	1,79,367	1,37,067	3,16,434	70,782	79,451	1,50,233	1,441	1,99,840
1956-57	2,07,327	1,99,840	4,07,167	69,477	1,11,139	1,80,916	2,932	2,23,320
1957-58	2,10,422	2,23,310	4,33,732	66,836	95,225	1,62,061	1,672	2,70,008
1958-59	2,63,720	2,70,008	5,33,723	54,427	76,347	1,30,774	1,589	4,01,359
1959-60	2,64,064	4,01,359	6,65,433	52,974	1,22,581	1,75,555	—	4,83,307
1960-61	2,75,549	4,83,307	7,58,856	64,889	1,37,834	2,02,723	—	5,56,067
1961-62	3,09,065	5,56,066	8,65,131	45,320	1,09,127	1,54,447	—	7,09,418
1962-63	3,08,590	7,09,418	10,18,008	40,064	1,36,942	1,77,006	—	8,39,770
1963-64	3,26,812	8,39,770	11,66,582	53,828	1,77,512	2,31,340	—	9,32,283
1964-65	3,50,707	9,32,283	12,92,990	42,626	1,36,105	1,78,731	—	11,00,242
1965-66	3,68,754	11,00,242	14,68,996	—	—	—	—	—

The table shows that the current demand from Land Revenue is progressively on increase, i.e., almost three times during the last 13 years. It has increased from Rs.1,32,742/- in the year of 1953-54 to Rs.1,79,367/- in 1955-56 and to Rs.2,75,549/- in the year of 1960-61. It has further progressed to a figure of Rs.3,50,707/- in the year of 1964-65. But the progressive increase in demand is not followed by the progressive increase in collection. Every year the huge amount is left as arrear, though a slight improvement in realisation of arrears is noticeable in the last few years. The cumulative arrear has increased from Rs.1,18,505/- in 1953-54 to Rs.11,00,242/- in the year of 1964-65.

The reasons assigned to the huge arrears are said to be the poor economic condition of people, occasional failure of crops in the hilly areas due to drought and absence of any scope for pursuing coercive measures on assesseees having no valuable property. As most of the land in the district are annual *patta*, the land cannot be attached for sale to realise

the arrears of revenue. This being a newly created district some concession had to be given at the initial stage in form of not insisting upon furnishing of security against revenue demand from *Mauzadars* and thus some of them are seems to be taking advantage of the same by keeping huge collection in hand. Now reasonable money or property securities are being demanded from *Mauzadar* before allowing them to start collection. Non-completion of the demarcation of the boundary between Karbi Anglong and neighbouring districts has also developed confusion among the assesseees of the border areas as to which district they belong and it has adversely affected the collection of revenue of the District Council.

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION IN NORTH CACHAR HILLS

(a) Collector and his staff : Historical role, and present set up

The North Cachar Hills took over the charge of the Land Revenue Administration since its inception on 29-4-52 and adopted The Assam (Land And Revenue) Regulation, 1886 and rules framed thereunder by enacting The North Cachar Hills District (Land And Revenue) Act, 1953.

The whole of the North Cachar Hills is one Unit for the purpose of the Land Revenue Administration. There are 19 *mauzas* in the Autonomous District, but they are not territorially delimited instead they are constituted tribe wise, the larger tribes such as the Kacharis and the Nagas having more than one *mauzas*. As the different tribes lived interspersed, these *mauzas* naturally overlap territorially. Each *mauza* is placed under the charge of the *Mauzadar* who is responsible for collection of Land Revenue and House Tax. Besides, one *Gaonbura* from each village is appointed to assist *Mauzadars* in collection of Land Revenue and House Tax.

The Land Revenue Branch of the District Council is responsible for assessment of Land Revenue and House Tax and collection of the same. Allotment of land for various purposes and settlement of land with the individuals are done by this branch in accordance with the District Council's Land Distribution Policy. Over and above these regular revenue works, miscellaneous enquiries, collection of taxes or animals etc. are also done through *Mauzadars* and *Gaonburas* under this branch. *Mauzadars* and *Gaonburas* who are recognised as Chief Village Authorities under The North Cachar Hills (Administration Of Justice) Rules, are also functioning as

village court. These courts are empowered to try cases of petty nature such as simple affray and affront, theft etc., and can impose fine upto the extent Rs.50/- in criminal cases and adjudicate to the extent of any amount in civil cases. Appeals from these courts lie to the Subordinate District Council Court.

Secretary to the Executive Committee who is also the Revenue Officer, is responsible for the overall working of the District Council. As a Revenue Officer, he exercises such powers as are conferred upon the Deputy Commissioner under The Assam (Land And Revenue Regulation), 1886. An appeal against the order of the Revenue Officer, lies to the Executive Member in-charge of the Land Revenue.

(b) History of Land Revenue assessment and management : Institution of Ryotwary, Zamindary and other forms of tenure

It has already been described elsewhere, how the North Cachar Hills came to be constituted as a sub-division of Cachar district in 1880. In 1884, the Frontier Tracts Regulation (ii) of 1880 was extended to the North Cachar Hills. The greater part of The Assam Land And Revenue Regulation, 1880 was also extended to the hills in 1896⁴ and in 1900, Section 1 of the then Settlement Rules of the Province was extended in order to provide a basis for settlement of land for special cultivation⁵, but in 1930, the applicable portions were reduced to Sections 1,2,6,9,94 and 144 A and the Schedule.⁶ With the shifting of sub-divisional headquarters from Gunjung to Haflong in 1895 and the opening of Assam-Bengal Railway through the hills for traffic, there came considerable changes along the railway course. Haflong developed into a small hill station and special rules were provided for settlement of residential sites. The flat valley of Jatinga which contains considerable area of ordinary cultivation, was assessed to ordinary Land Revenue and demand in 1928-29 amounted to Rs.4,610/-. The Miscellaneous Revenue demand during the same year came to Rs.30,615/- was made up of Rs.4,915/- Poll Tax, Rs.22,722 House Tax and Rs.2,978/- Grazing Tax.

As stated elsewhere, North Cachar Hills is an Autonomous District and the extent of powers to collect and assess Land Revenue and to make laws concerning the allotment, occupation or use of land vested with the

4. Notification No. 4192 R., date 30th Sept., 1896.

5. Notification No. 408 R., dated 5th February, 1900

6. Notification No. 1997 R., dated 28th April, 1930.

District Council under para 8 and 3 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India has been described in the preceding paragraphs. Accordingly, the Land Revenue Administration of the sub-division was transferred to the District Council of North Cachar Hills since its inception.

In accordance with the powers conferred upon under the above stated provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, the District Council of North Cachar Hills had adopted The Assam (Land And Revenue) Regulation, 1886 and rules framed thereunder in so far as they were applicable immediately before the inception of the District Council by enacting The North Cachar Hills (Land And Revenue) Act, 1953. Section 1,2,6,9,94 and 144 A of Assam (Land And Revenue) Regulation, 1886 were already applicable before the adoption of the above Act. On October, 1954, Chapter 5th and subsequently on 31st July, 1964, Section 3-5,10-16,17-55,47-49,63-68, 69A-122, 125-171 of Assam (Land And Revenue) Regulation, 1886 were made applicable by a notification under Section 3 of The North Cachar Hills (Land And Revenue) Act, 1953 by the District Council of North Cachar Hills. The Assam Land And Records Manual and The Assam (Land And Revenue) Assessment Act, 1936 are also being followed in the Autonomous District by the District Council of North Cachar Hills. In matters of survey, assessment and settlement so far as the Cadastral areas are concerned, the same procedure is adopted as in the plains district of Assam. The Lands are directly settled with the individuals and so there is no other forms of settlement except the *Ryotwari* System.

For the purpose of the Land Revenue Assessment, the land in the whole of North Cachar Hills may be divided into categories (a) Cadastral Areas and (2) Non-Cadastral areas. In Cadastral areas, the land is surveyed and assessed to Land Revenue and where the provisions of Assam (Land And Revenue) Regulation, 1886 applies. The rate of assessment is unit rate which was prevalent before the inception of the District Council of North Cachar Hills. This rate introduced in the year of 1935, under Government Notification No. 1174 M.P. dated the 19th Feb., 1935 is still assessed by the District Council of North Cachar Hills.

In Non-Cadastral areas which are subject to *jhuming*, each village has a definite boundary and within that boundary the villager has a right to cultivate and settle on payment of a House Tax at the rate of Rs.3/- per annum in villages having 10 or more houses and Rs.6/- in villages less than 10 houses. The right of a villager in such land is limited to use and occupancy and no other right accrues by length of possession or

otherwise. One advantage that has accrued from the fixed and definite boundary of the village is that villages in the North Cachar Hills unlike that of Karbi Anglong, are more or less permanent.

(c) PRESENT SYSTEM OF SURVEY : ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION IN FORCE.

Survey and Settlement : Most of the areas in the North Cachar Hills sub-division are non-cadastral. Only the plains portion in the Jatinga, Mahur and Langting Valley has been cadastrally surveyed. Lands under permanent cultivation, town lands and lands in markets areas which are surveyed and settled have been brought under revenue assessment. The areas under settlement and assessed to Land Revenue was only 5,269.52 acres in the year of 1964-65. In Cadastral areas, the procedure of survey and settlement is the same as provided in The Assam (Land And Revenue) Regulation Act, 1886 and adopted by the District Council by enacting The North Cachar Hills (Land And Revenue) Act, 1953.

Lands are settled directly with the individuals either on annual or periodic lease. There were only 252 periodic leases in the North Cachar Hills upto the year of 1964. According to the Policy Resolution of the Executive Committee of N.C. Hills adopted in the year of 1954, the following are the guiding principles while giving settlement.⁷

- (1) Ordinarily the landless and indigenous shall be given the first preference.
- (2) Next in order of preference are the permanently settled non-tribals who are electors in a District Council constituency.
- (3) Preferences as between a landless and a man with uneconomic holding, preferences should be given to the latter unless there are strong grounds against.

Economic holding : it is for the time being fixed at 30 *bighas*.

- (4) In case of settlement in surveyed areas falling within a village boundary, an applicant from a different village will have the right of settlement unless any of the villager comes forward for settlement and satisfy the Settlement Officer that he has the capacity to put the land under cultivation within a reasonable time.

7. Order No. Rev/8/11 dated 4th June, 1956 of the District Council, North Cachar Hills.

Reasonable time means one three to years according to the nature of the land to be reclaimed.

(5) As far as possible, settlement of land with member of different tribes in the same area shall be avoided unless for some special reasons this can not be avoided.

(6) All land shall progressively be brought under settlement area either for wet rice or special cultivation.

The above principles more or less guide the settlement policy in respect of Haflong town. With a view to,⁸ encourage the local tribal people to settle permanently in Haflong town, the rate of premium of periodic leases in Haflong town is reduced to Rs.100/- per acre in case of local tribal only. In all the cases, the existing rate, i.e., Rs.500/- per acre will remain in force. The existing rate of Land Revenue, i.e., Rs.7.50 per acre will be applicable in all cases. This concession will take immediate effect and will continue for a period of five years from 4th June, 1956.

While making the settlement of land record of right is prepared in the prescribed forms, under rule 60 of The Settlement Rules Of Assam (Land And Revenue) Regulation, 1886, the prescribed forms are *Ghitha* and *Jamabandi*. The *Chitha* contains the following particulars : (1) Number of the fields, (2) Area of the field, (3) Name of the father and residence of the land holders or settlement holder, (4) Tenure, (5) Name and Father's name and residence of the tenants, (6) Assessment class and above contains the following particulars : (1) Number of *Patta*, (2) Name of father and residence of the settlement holder, (3) Number of each field, (4) Area of each field, (5) Class of each field, (6) Area of each class on each field and (7) Revenue.

The District Council of North Cachar Hills has not enacted any specific Act or rules for land transfer, but⁹ any one desiring to sell or transfer any land shall before doing so, give notice of his intentions to the Secretary and Revenue Officer, Executive Committee, North Cachar Hills District Council Haflong, sufficiently in advance. No complaint against any seller or buyer in respect of any sale or transfer affected otherwise shall be entertained. Since the taking over of the Land and Revenue Administration by the District Council of North Cachar Hills,

8. Memo. No. GA/REV/S/14/62/21 dated Haflong the 6th July, 1962, District Council of North Cachar Hills.

9. Ibid.

the number of cases in which the non-tribals asked for permission for land transfer is 88, number of cases granted 47 and number of cases refused 41. The reasons for refusal in most cases are ; transfers have been asked for persons who are not permanent residents or not likely to settle in town permanently in this district or already possessing sufficient land.

The considerations for the District Council for insisting on its prior approval before transfers are (i) to secure priority to the indigenous tribal people in the first place, (ii) Secondly to the non-tribal permanent local residents, (iii) Thirdly to ensure against speculation in land and lastly (iv) to see that land does not pass into hands of a person who has no genuine necessity of the land.

Assessment : The Land Revenue in the Autonomous District of North Cachar Hills is assessed in accordance with the Govt. Notification No ; 1174 A.P. dated the 19th Feb. 1935 issued under Section 35 of The Chin Hill Regulation, 1896 (Regulation of 1896), the levy and collection being legalised by the District Council under the North Cachar Hills District (Revenue Assessment) Regulation, 1953. The existing rates are the same as were fixed under the above notification. The following are the rates for different kinds of lands in settled areas :-

(1) In Haflong town according to the terms of the lease issued, the rates generally are :-

(a) For periodic leases Rs.7.50 per acre.

(b) For annual leases Rs.3.50 per acre.

(11) In settled areas other than those market areas,

(a) Local hill men according to the terms of the leases subject to the minimum of Rs.3.00 per year.

(b) Other than local hill man, according to the terms of the leases subject to the minimum of Rs.5/- per year.

In both the cases, the rates of Land Revenue are as follows :-

Kind of settlement	Class of land	Rate per <i>bigha</i>
1. Annual <i>Khiraj patta</i>	<i>Bari</i>	- 12 -
for ordinary cultivation.	<i>Bhit</i>	- 7 -
	<i>Sali</i>	- 10 -
2. Periodic <i>Khiraj Patta</i>	<i>Asra</i>	- 7 -
for ordinary cultivation	<i>Chara</i>	- 6 -
3. Periodic <i>Khiraj Patta</i>	<i>Patil</i>	- 15 -
for special cultivation.		- 2 -

(iii) On shop sites in Bazars-/- annas (Rs. 0.25) per 100 fts. per month upto a depth of 50 fts. and -/2/- annas (Rs. 0.13) per 100 fts. per month beyond the depth of 50 fts.

Collection : The methods of collecting the Land Revenue as adopted in this Autonomous District may be described as *Mauzadari* system. The *Mauzadar* is a commissioned collecting agency of the District Council and is responsible for the collection of Land Revenue. In unsettled areas, *Mauzadar* prepares annually a *Khanasumari* (House list) of each village on the basis of which House Tax is assessed. The collection is made by the *Mauzadar* with the help of the respective *Gaonbura* of village. In consideration of their services, the *Gaonburas* are exempted from the House Tax and *Mauzadar* gets the commission of 12% on the total collection.

(d) **INCOME FROM LAND REVENUE AND SPECIAL CESSSES CONNECTED WITH IT.**

Land Revenue is a major source of income for the District Councils, but so far the District Council of North Cachar Hills is concerned, it is negligible. The lands under permanent paddy cultivation and under permanent houses in the Haflong town and market areas is assessed to Land Revenue. *Jhum* lands and other village lands are not assessed to Land Revenue as there is no fixity of cultivation and hence it is difficult, if not impossible, to assess these lands to Land Revenue. The yields from the House Tax is about Rs.18,000/- annually. The bad economic condition of the people coupled with food scarcity caused by drought etc. make the collection of revenue slow and halting.

The receipt under the head 'Land Revenue', though not very significant is slightly on increase annually excepting the year of 1964-65. It has increased from Rs.21,554/- in 1959-60 to Rs.33,984/- in 1963-64 but fell to Rs.31,464/- in 1964-65. The receipts under the head (Land Revenue) comprises of four items of (i) Ordinary Land Revenue (ii) Rent etc. on fisheries (iii) House Tax and (iv) Land Registration and Mutation fees etc. Out of the total receipts of Rs.31,454/- ordinary Land Revenue, House Tax and Rent etc. on fisheries was Rs.8,681/-, Rs.18,463/ and Rs.5,340/- respectively. There was no receipts from land registration etc. The following table shows the details of the receipts under the head Land Revenue of the District Council, North Cachar Hills since 1959-60.

Detailed head of receipts	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
Ordinary Land Revenue.	4,158	5,942	6,781	7,284	9,430	8,481
Rent etc. on fisheries.	3,496	3,635	3,453	4,090	5,197	4,340
House Tax.	13,900	13,156	15,402	18,763	19,307	18,643
Land Registration and Mutation fee etc.	—	525	—	—	—	—
Total	21,554	25,258	25,636	30,137	33,934	31,464

Section 11.

ADMINISTRATION OF TAXES OTHER THAN LAND REVENUE :

The taxes levied by the State Government are Sales Tax, Professional Tax, Amusement and Betting Tax, Motor Spirit and Lubricant Tax, Agricultural Income Tax etc. These taxes are administered by the Taxation Department and Superintendent of Taxes is the head of the department at the district level. He is assisted by a number of Inspectors of Taxes. The administration of taxes in the district is under the control of Superintendent of Taxes, Nowgong. The Excise Revenue is assessed and collected by the Superintendent of Excise, Diphu. The table below shows the collection of taxes in the district since 1951 to 1966.

Head of Revenue	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
1. Excise	57,313	80,601	80,797	90,830	1,13,822	1,36,422
2. Assam Sales Tax.	23,803	20,249	22,200	13,672	18,106	17,493
3. Professional Tax.	632	630	2,978	820	1,551	1,454
4. Amusement & Betting Tax.	5,958	—	26,256	—	6,113	10,235
5. Motor Spirit & Lubricant Tax.	—	—	—	—	—	80
6. Agricultural Income Tax.	321	130	—	—	—	—

(contd)

Head of Revenue	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
1. Excise	1,62,630	2,11,048		2,44,065		2,64,325
2. Assam Sales Tax.	34,154	5,661	17,780	16,129	25,101	17,566
3. Professional Tax.	1,136	812	1,362	868	2,722	2,088
					(Karbi Anglong)	(Karbi Anglong)
4. Amusement & Betting Tax.	52,265	35,792	47,692	40,096	31,198	31,340
5. Motor Spirit & Lubricant Tax.	28		2,385	11,918	10,873	-
6. Agricultural Income Tax.			76			
Head of Revenue	1963	1964	1965	1966		

1. Excise	2,99,446	1,37,103	3,55,663	3,53,293		
2. Assam Sales Tax.	16,414	33,581	31,911	29,598		
3. Professional Tax.	2,690	1,550	2,012	2,590		
				(Karbi Anglong)		
4. Amusement & Betting Tax.	32,627	39,216	48,286	47,875		
5. Motor Spirit & Lubricant Tax.						
6. Agricultural Income Tax.						

For purposes of assessment and collection of Income Tax, the jurisdiction over all cases other than cases having income from salaries and pensions received from the Government in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district vests in the Income Tax Officer, Jorhat, who also functions as the Wealth Tax Officer for purposes of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957. The assessments are done locally as far as practicable at Camp—Diphu and Camp—Haflong so as to afford convenience to the assessee and to avoid difficulties of their attendance at the Jorhat Office.

The Income Tax Officer, Jorhat, with the assistance of one Inspector and an adequate number of ministerial staff performs the necessary assessment work of this district in addition to his duties in respect of other districts falling within his jurisdiction and there is no separate staff meant exclusively for the work of this district.

While Income Tax may be said to be one of the old taxes in our country, the other taxes namely Wealth Tax, Gift Tax and Expenditure Tax are quite new. So far, there has not been any assessee of (i) Gift Tax and (ii) Expenditure Tax in this district. As regards Wealth Tax, there is only one assessee. The quantum of Wealth Tax assessed and realised fully for the assessment years 1957-58 and 1958-59 is less than Rs.1000.00.

As regards Income Tax, only 23 persons have so far been brought into the register of assessee. These are assessee having income from business, profession or vocation. It is to be noted that both the demand and collection of Income Tax in the year 1959-60 far exceeded these in the earlier years due to completion of a large number of pending assessments in 1959-60. In respect of other years, the demand figures fall within the range of Rs.4,000.00 to Rs.6,000.00. While the collection figures range from Rs.2,000.00 to Rs.4,000.00 with the growth of business and trades, the revenue in the coming years is expected to register a progressive increase.

WAGES AND LABOUR :

There is practically no wage earning labourer amongst the local inhabitants especially the hill areas. The people have their own cultivation either in *jhum* or otherwise. In the plains areas of the district, however, there are immigrant settlers who earn their livelihood as agricultural labourer. Their wages vary from Rs.3.00 to Rs.4.00 per day.

AGRARIAN MOVEMENT :

No agrarian movement is known to have taken place in early times nor any peasant organisation is known to exist in the district. Agrarian movements are generally to be noticed in plains districts with an advanced economy and developed land systems. The tribal people inhabiting the hills have no agrarian problems.

CHAPTER—XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

Section --1

(a) INCIDENCE OF CRIME IN THE DISTRICT :

There is no record on incidence of crimes in the ancient times pertaining to this district. From the ancient history of Kamrupa it is evident that, this part of the country which was primarily inhabited by the *Kiratas* and the *Cinas*, went under the sway of the Kamrupa emperors of the Bhauma and the Varman Dynesties and finally confined themselves into small territories under a number of clans like the Kacharis, the Nagas, the Jaintias etc. From the community organisations, customs and norms of these clans or tribes which have been elaborately discussed in chapter III of the Gazetteer, it can be easily surmised that there was perfect law and order situation prevailing in these territories in the ancient times. But as there is complete absence of recorded evidence on the matter, nothing can be said definitely. The only form of Government known at that time was the monarchy and the entire responsibility of the country's security rested with the king who besides guarding the sovereignty, was to maintain full justice in the sphere of life, property and honour of the people within his dominion.

The incidence of crime in the district is on increase. 535 cases of crimes under Indian Penal code were reported in 1968 against 92 in 1951. A steady rise in the crimes is noticeable from the following figures :-

Year	Crimes reported	Year	Crimes reported
1951	92	1960	405
1952	175	1961	434
1953	262	1962	421
1954	242	1963	479
1955	245	1964	579
1956	261	1965	472
1957	256	1966	433
1958	309	1967	458
1959	392	1968	535

Most of the cases shown above are crimes against property and a few against the human body. Out of the total crimes mentioned above in 1960, 1965 and 1968, theft and burglary accounted for 92, 96, 97, and 90, 63, 79 cases respectively. There were 14, 20, 5 cases of dacoity and 18, 6, 9 cases of robbery in the same years. All these dacoities excepting some two or three for which the Naga hostiles are responsible, have been committed by the mixed gangs. Murder cases were only 13 in 1968-69.

Rioting which comes next to theft and burglary accounts for 30,45 and 32 in 1960, 1965 and 1968 respectively. The rioting cases are gradually increasing for the reason that the quarrel amongst the people takes place very frequently for the unsettled lands. The rioting on grounds of religion, languages etc. are very rare in the district.

Border raids are committed by the Naga hostiles on the eastern and southern portions of the district along the border of the Nagaland State. They have attacked bordering places committing dacoity, arson, rioting, murder etc. They have also caused damage and dislocation to the railway communication. The most important sabotage caused by the Naga hostiles took place at Diphu Railway Station in the month of April, 1966. A high power explosive damaged the several bogies of the Down Train, resulting in death of about hundred passengers. The following table shows the details of crimes reported in the district since 1960.¹ :- Table in next page.

1. The table is compiled from the materials collected from the office of Superintendent of Police, Diphu and Haflong.

Table A

Nature of crimes	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968									
	K.A. N.H. K.A. N.H. K.A. N.H. K.A. N.H. K.A. N.H. K.A. N.H. K.A. N.H. K.A. N.H.																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1. Dacoity	13	1	5	6	7	2	15	3	5	4	19	1	15	—	3	—	2	3
2. Robbery..	17	1	6	2	4	3	5	1	6	2	3	3	4	2	4	—	8	1
3. Burglary..	72	8	61	17	90	2	74	13	65	13	48	15	38	11	48	14	60	19
4. Theft ..	76	16	77	19	62	23	82	20	65	22	75	21	73	11	68	7	83	14
5. Murder	10	2	3	3	7	4	9	4	4	6	9	1	6	5	19	5	10	3
6. Rioting ..	23	2	20	2	27	3	27	1	144	5	36	9	22	5	19	—	25	7
7. Smuggling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Border raids	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
9. Sex crimes	6	2	12	3	7	2	13	3	17	1	15	3	15	3	8	1	15	4
10. Other crimes	119	31	144	50	151	30	174	28	161	60	171	47	180	47	204	45	209	58
11. Total crimes	339	66	328	106	355	66	404	75	467	112	382	90	353	80	373	79	412	123
12. C. S. to total crimes	157	23	130	50	143	35	189	28	187	55	201	41	186	40	170	42	196	51
13. F. R. to total crimes	149	43	152	56	176	37	182	47	220	57	144	49	133	40	176	37	195	72
14. Cases pending at the end of the year.	33	14	46	41	36	26	33	31	60	53	37	41	34	45	27	40	21	67

K.A. Karbi Anglong,
N.H. North Cachar Hills.
C.S.—Charge Sheet.
F.R. Final Report.

(b) ORGANISATION OF POLICE FORCE :

Police Department in the district came into being with the inauguration of the district on 17th November, 1951. The Deputy Commissioner of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills was also placed in charge of Police. Initially, there were two police stations one at Diphu in Karbi Anglong and other at Hallong in North Cachar Hills. The Police administration was carried on with a meagre staff of one Inspector, seven Sub-Inspectors, sixteen Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and 119 constables.² Gradually the police force increased as two more *thanas* had to be opened at Hawraghat and Bokajan in 1955 and 1956. The post of Superintendent of Police was created in 1957. In 1959, Boithalangso Police Station was also established and sanction for police station at Maibong was also received. The strength of regular Police consisted of one Superintendent one Assistant Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent, two Inspectors, twenty-seven Sub-Inspectors and 314 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables in 1966.

Village Defence Parties : The organisation of Village Defence Parties started in 1954. At the inception, there were only 12 parties with one Village Defence Circle Organiser but gradually the number of Village Defence Parties rose to 172 besides sixty unregistered parties and 3 other Village Defence Circle Organisers. A Sub-Inspector of Police has been posted for managing the organisation.

Home Guard : The organisation of Home Guards was introduced in the district in September, 1965. It is under the command of an Honorary Commandant. Initially, with a regular staff of 4 Inspectors, 2 Platoon Commandants and 6 grade IV employees, it started its training centre and occasional enrolments were made on the basis of daily wages. The Director of Civil Defence and Commandant General Home Guards, Assam, Gauhati has allotted a quota of 110 Home Guards for urban areas and 990 Home Guards for rural areas in the different Community Development Blocks @ 110 Home Guards in each Block. Another quota of 36 Women Home Guards has also been allotted for training in this district. 443 (414 men and 29 women) and 416 persons were trained as Home Guards during the years 1965-66 and 1966-67.

During 1966-67, forty Home Guards were called out and posted in the different vital installations of the district. 220 Home Guards were called on duty for conducting 1967 General Elections and for law and

2. Census of India 1961, Assam, District Census Handbook, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills. p. 347.

order duties. Another batch of 73 Home Guards was utilized at check posts in 1967.

Railway Police : This is a branch of the State Police Organisation. The Superintendent of Railway Police with headquarters at Haflong is the head of the Railway Police and he works directly under the Inspector General of Police, Assam. It has two police stations at Badarpur (Cachar district) and Lunding (Nowgong district) with one out-post at Lower Haflong. Crimes committed on Railway's premises come under the purview of the Railway Police.

Fire Service Organisation : A staff of Fire Brigade consisting of one Sub-officer, two Drivers, 2 leading Firemen and 12 Firemen have been working in the district since 18th January, 1968. The Fire Station is equipped with 2 wales tenderers and one jeep.

Prohibition Squad : The Superintendent of Excise is the head of the Excise Force in the district subject to the general supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. The main function of this organisation is to enforce prohibition laws in the district.

Intelligence Branch : The District Intelligence Branch has also been organised with 4 Sub-Inspectors, 3 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 4 Constables. Besides, there is another intelligence set-up of one Deputy Superintendent, 2 Inspectors, 7 Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Constables to deal with the operation against Naga hostiles.

Assam Radio Police Organisation : The Police Radio Station of this district was installed in 1951. Now, wireless sets are provided to each *thana* and temporary police beats according to the necessity.

There is one Police Training Centre at Haflong for imparting training to S.S.B. personnels.

(c) **JAILS AND LOCKUPS :**

There are only two lockups for under-trial prisoners, located at Diphu and Haflong. There is no Jail for prisoners in the district and convicts sentenced to imprisonment are sent to Jails elsewhere.

Section—2

(a) **HISTORY OF JUDICIARY : SEPARATION OF EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS :**

Before the formation of the district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills, special rules were in force for the administration of Civil and Criminal justice in the Mikir Hills Tracts and the North Cachar Hills sub-division. The Civil and Criminal justice in the Mikir Hills Tracts was administered by the Deputy Commissioners of Nowgong and Sibsagar districts and that of North Cachar Hills sub-division by the Deputy Commissioner of the Cachar district. The Deputy Commissioners were empowered to pass sentences of death, transportation and imprisonment for seven years or upwards subject to the confirmation of the Chief Commissioner, or Governor. Fine and imprisonment could be awarded in lieu of any other punishment provided that the amount of punishment awardable for the offence in question under the Indian Penal Code be not exceeded and no appeal lay from any sentence by the Deputy Commissioner, of less than three years of imprisonment. The jurisdiction of the High Court was barred and the Chief Commissioner or Governor was the chief appellate authority.

There was no separation of executive and judicial functions. The Magistrate or the Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner exercised executive and judicial powers as well as administered Civil and Criminal justice. With the constitution of the new district in 1951 and the formation of the two Autonomous Districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills, Govt. by Regulation No. X of 1951 (Assam, United Mikir And North Cachar Hills Administration Regulation of 1951) *inter alia* invested the Deputy Commissioner of the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills with all the powers for administration of Civil and Criminal justice which were formerly exercised by the Deputy Commissioners of Sibsagar, Nowgong and Cachar districts.

(b) **ORGANISATION OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS :**

The administration of civil and criminal justice vests in the Deputy Commissioner and his Assistants. Special Rules are in force for the administration of justice in both Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. Disputes of civil nature arising between parties belonging to Scheduled tribes are initially heard and decided by the *Mauzadars* and village authorities. Parties aggrieved by the decision of a *Mauzadar* or recognised

village authority may prefer an appeal to the Deputy Commissioner or his Assistants; the parties are heard by the court and if the decision of the *Mauzadar* or village authorities appears to be just, the court affirms it; if not, the court enforces its own decision. From the decision of the Deputy Commissioner, no appeal lies. The houses of the House-Tax paying hill-men, needful clothing, utensils or implements whereby the owner subsists, may not be attached, sold or transferred in execution of a decree, unless these be the subject of the suit. No such village authority has yet been constituted in the district.

An appeal lies to the Deputy Commissioner against the decision of any of his assistants and to the High Court against the original decision of the Deputy Commissioner, if the value of the suit is Rs.500/- or over or if a question of tribal rights or customs or right to, or possession of immovable property is involved in the suit. The limitation laid down for filing petition of appeals is 30 days from the date of the court's decision excluding the time required for obtaining a copy of the order appealed against. Appeals lying to the High Court have to be presented to the Deputy Commissioner first. If the Deputy Commissioner finds it in order and within the period of limitation he transmits the petition of appeal with the record of the case to the High Court. The decree of the appellate court is transferred to the court passing the original order for executing it as a decree of its own.

In dispensation of civil justice, the High Court and the Courts of the Deputy Commissioner and his Assistants follow the spirit but not the letter of the Civil Procedure Code. The Courts have been given the discretion to examine witnesses on oath in any form or to warn them that they are liable to punishment for perjury if they make statements which they know to be false.

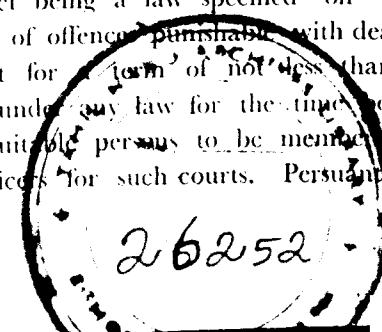
Although The Indian Limitation Act 1908 (Act IX of 1908) has been barred by Notification No. 5868 A.P. dated 8 September, 1934, the principles of The Indian Limitation Act are closely followed in disputes between persons not belonging to Scheduled Tribes specified in items 1 and 2 and part 1—Assam, of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

The administration of criminal justice devolves upon the Deputy Commissioner, his Assistants and the *Mauzadars*, *Gaonburas* or other village authorities of the different Communities. As in the case of administration of civil justice, the different courts administering criminal justice are guided by the spirit of the Criminal Procedure Code and are not bound by its letter.

On being authorised by the Deputy Commissioner, any *Mauzadar*, *Gaonbura* or village authority can dispose of cases of persons charged with minor offences involving injury to property not exceeding Rs.50/-, an injury to persons not endangering life or limb, simple house trespass, affront of whatever kind and theft. They may impose a fine for any offence they are competent to try to the extent of Rs.50/- only. They may award restitution or compensation to the extent of the injury sustained and enforce by distraint of the property of the offender. In case in which the offender refuses to abide by the decision, the offender is produced before the Deputy Commissioner or any of his Assistants representing at the same time the facts of the case. The Deputy Commissioner or any one of his Assistants may retry the case and impose such other punishments as he is competent to inflict. *Mauzadars*, *Gaonburas* or village authorities can exercise their authority only under a *Sanad* of recognition issued to them by the Deputy Commissioner. The *Mauzadars*, *Gaonburas* and the village authorities decide cases in open *darbar* in the presence of at least 3 witnesses and the complainant and the accused. Either party can make an appeal from their decision within 30 days to the Deputy Commissioner or one of his assistants who may try the case *de novo*. But no such village authority has yet been recognised.

An appeal lies to the Deputy Commissioner from the decision of his Assistants and to the High Court from any sentence passed by the Deputy Commissioner. No appeal lies against the order of an Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner, having powers of a Magistrate of the 1st class, inflicting a sentence of fine which does not exceed Rs.50/-. The Deputy Commissioner is competent to pass sentence of death, transportation or imprisonment up to the maximum period provided for the offence, and of fine to any amount. All sentences of death, transportation or imprisonment of seven years and upwards are subject to the confirmation by the High Court. In case of a sentence of death, the period of appeal is 7 days.

Role of the District Councils and Panchayats : Under para 4 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, the District Councils in the autonomous districts have the power to constitute Village Councils or courts for the trial of suits and cases between parties all of whom belong to Scheduled Tribe, other than suits and cases arising out of any law in force in any autonomous district being a law specified on that behalf by the Governor or for the trial of offences punishable with death, transportation for life or imprisonment for term of not less than 5 years under the Indian Penal Code or under any law for the time being in force in the district, and appoint suitable persons to be members of such Village Councils or Presiding Officers for such courts. Pursuant to



this authority, the District Council of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous District, in 1956 set up the District Council Court and a Subordinate District Council Court under direct subordination to the Assam High Court for trial of cases and offences of the nature mentioned herein above. There is one Judge for the District Council Court and a Subordinate Judge for the Subordinate District Council Court. The District Council Court exercises its judicial function as an appellate authority against the orders and decisions of the Subordinate District Council Court. The Subordinate District Council Court exercises its power both in its original jurisdiction as well as an appellate authority for hearing appeals against the decisions of the Village *Panchayats*. These Village *Panchayats* are constituted with village elders generally presided over by *Mauzadars* or the village head-man who have been authorised to hear disputes concerning tribal laws and customs and also cases of petty Civil and Criminal nature. These *Panchayats* are, however, not to be confused with the *Panchayats* elected under the Assam Panchayat Act, nor with the Village Councils which the District Council may set up under the para 4 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. These Village *Panchayats* are neither permanent nor elected bodies. These were in existence even before the District Council of the North Cachar Hills came into being. They have been authorised to perform the functions and duties of the village courts. The tribal people in general in the North Cachar Hills like any other hill tribes are not litigious and almost all the disputes are settled at the village level. A majority of the cases that come up to the Subordinate Court also eventually ends in compromise.

The Karbi Anglong District Council has not set up the District Council Court as cases of the nature these courts are competent to try, are so few in number that it is not worthwhile to incur heavy expenditure by having a separate judiciary of their own. All cases in the Karbi Anglong are, therefore, heard and tried by the Deputy Commissioner and his Assistants. As in the North Cachar Hills, in the Karbi Anglong also, petty cases of civil and criminal nature and disputes involving tribal laws and customs are as a rule heard by the traditional Village *Panchayats* presided over by the village head-men or tribal chief.

To dispense civil and criminal justice in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills there is one Deputy Commissioner's Court exercising powers of the Court of the Sessions Judge at Diphu with two Courts of the Assistants to the Deputy Commissioner. There is one Sub-divisional Magistrate's Court at Haflong with two Courts of the Assistants to the Deputy Commissioner.

The Judiciary has not been separated from the Executive. The Deputy Commissioner and his Assistants continue to administer Civil and Criminal justice in addition to their executive functions.

(c) **NATURE OF CASES HANDLED** : The staff of officers employed on criminal and civil justice work in the district during the year 1959, consisted of the District Magistrate, one Sub-Divisional Magistrate and 4 Subordinate Magistrates. There is no regular Sessions Division in the district. The District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner functions as Sessions Judge under the Rules For Administration Of Criminal And Civil Justice For Autonomous Districts.

Criminal Cases : The Number of offences reported during the year 1959 was 1,706 against 1,140, 1,150, 984, in the years 1958, 1957, 1956 respectively. Of these, 544, 407 and 402 were under I.P.C. and 1,162, 666, 752 and 582 were under special laws. Out of these, 1,338, 819, 773 and 315 were found to be true in the respective years as mentioned above. From the figures of reported offences, it is evident that there is a continuous and steady rise in the number of offences under the Indian Penal Code as well as under special laws.

1,446 cases were disposed of in the Courts of the District Magistrate and other Magistrates exercising original jurisdiction in 1959. The total number of cases decided in the same year increased by 742, 676 and 461 when compared with the years of 1956, 1957 and 1958.

The number of persons involved in cases was 1,996, 1,842, 1,187 and 1,093 in 1959, 1958, 1957, 1956 respectively. Of these, 1,086, 600, 574 and 450 were convicted and 970, 643, 613 and 643 were acquitted. Of the persons convicted in 1959, 276 were sentenced to imprisonment, rigorous or simple, 217 to pay fine with imprisonment and 433 to fine only.

The total amount of fine imposed during the year 1959 was Rs. 18,648.63. The amount realised during the same year was Rs.13,702.46

Civil Suits : The number of Civil suits instituted in the year 1959, was 18 as against 11, 13 and 12 cases in the years 1958, 1957 and 1956 respectively. Of the total number of suits instituted in the above years 7, 5, 8, 9, were petty claims valued at sums not exceeding the value of Rs.5,000/-. Only two were valued over Rs.5,000/- one in the year 1958 and another in the year 1956. In addition to 18, 11, 13, and 12 suits instituted in the above mentioned years 7, 8, 3, 5 were pending from the previous years making a total of 18, 19, 16 and 17. Of these excluding transfer, 10, 13, 7, 13 were disposed of during the same years.

(d) **BAR ASSOCIATION** : As the number of cases Civil or Criminal are not much, there are only 3 advocates and 2 *Mukhtars* at Diphu. Advocates from the neighbouring districts also come occasionally whenever they are engaged in a particular case. A Bar Association is still not organised in the district.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF CIVIL SUITS INSTITUTED IN THE CIVIL COURTS OF (U) MIKIR & NORTH CACHAR HILLS.

CIVIL

	Suits for money and movable property				Suits under the rent law				Total			
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1956	1957	1958	1959	1956	1957	1958	1959
Munsiff.												
1. A. D. C. Diphu.	—	8	8	3	—	1	1	1	—	9	9	4
2. S.D.O. Haflong.	9	3	2	6	5	1	—	—	14	4	2	6
3. District Judge.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9	11	10	9	5	2	1	1	14	13	11	10
Title and other suits Grand total												
1956	1957	1958	1959	1956	1957	1958	1959					
Munsiff.												
1. A.D.C. Diphu.	—	—	—	2	—	9	9	6				
2. S.D.O. Haflong	—	—	—	—	14	4	2	6				
3. District Judge.	1				1							
Total	1	—	—	2	15	13	11	12				

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SUITS INSTITUTED, DISPOSED OFF AND PENDING AND THE MANNER OF THE DISPOSAL OF SUITS OF EACH CLASS IN EACH OF THE CIVIL SUITS FOR THE YEAR OF 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959.

	Instituted				Disposed of (including transfer)							
	Money		Rent	Titles and others	Total	Money				Rent		
						Total	On full trials		Total	On full trials		
1. District Judge.	1956	57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59		
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
2. A.D.C. Diphu.	—	8 8 3	— 1 1 1 4	— — — — —	— 2 4 9 9 6	— 8 8 2	— 1 — — —	— 2 — — —	— — — — —	— — — — —		
3. S.D.O. Haflong	9	3 2 6 2	1 — — — —	— — — — —	— 11 4 2 6 9	— 2 3 2 —	— 2 1 2 —	— — — — —	— 2 — — —	— — — — —		
Total	9	11 10 9 2	2 1 1 5	— — — — —	— 2 16 13 11 12	9 8 10 5 2	1 2 3 2 —	— 2 — — —	— — — — —	— — — — —		
disposed of (including transfer)												
	Title				Total							
	Total	On full trial	Without trial on compromise of ref. to	Exparte	After full trial	Total of columns 12, 13 & 14						
1. District. Judge	56	57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59	56 57 58 59		
2. A.D.C. Diphu.	—	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —		
3. S.D.O. Haflong	—	— — — —	— 2 2 6 4	— 4 — —	— 1 — —	— 2 2 3 —	— 6 2 7 6	— 3 2 1 3	— 4 3 3 2 1	— 5 9 7 9		
Total	2	— — — —	— 8 5 6 8	1 1 4 —	— 4 1 1 4	13 7 3 10	5 9 7 9	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —		

TABLE—IV—(CRIMINAL)

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER TRIAL IN MAGISTRATES COURT AND COURT OF SESSIONS DURING THE YEAR 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959 AND THE RESULT TRIAL.

1	2		3		4		5	
Details of Courts.	Under trial during the year.		Acquitted or discharged.		Convicted		Committed or referred.	
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1956	1957	1958	1959
DIPHU								
1. Dist. Magistrate.								
2. Magistrate 1st Cls.	1,341	1,315	1,211	2,043	555	512	468	630
3. Magistrate 2nd Cls.								
4. Magistrate 3rd Cls.								
					355	443	471	891
HAFLONG								
1. S.D.O.								
Haflong.	236	305	377	358	88	101	174	140
2. Magistrate 2nd Cls.								
					95	131	129	135
Total	1,577	1,620	1,588	2,401	643	613	642	970
					450	574	600	1026
							2	1
								32
								(Contd.)

U. M. AND N. C. HILLS DISTRICT GAZETTEER

TABLE—IV—(CRIMINAL)
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER TRIAL IN MAGISTRATES COURTS AND COURT OF SESSIONS DURING THE YEAR 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959 AND THE RESULT TRIAL

	6				7			8			9	
Details of Courts. Died, escaped while under trial.	Remaining under trial.				percentage of person entered in columns 3 & 4 who were convicted.			Remarks.				
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1956	1957	1958	1959	1956	1957	1958	1959
DIPHU												
1. Dist. Magistrate.	1	6	16	7	294	356	257	324	—	—	—	—
2. Magistrate 1st Cls.												
3. Magistrate 2nd Cls.												
4. Magistrate 3rd Cls.												
HAFLONG												
1. S.D.O.	10	3	8	16	43	68	65	58	51.4	56.5	63.5	—
Haflong.												
2. Magistrate 2nd Cls.	11	9	24	23	337	424	322	382	51.4	56.5	63.5	—
Total												

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES BROUGHT TO TRIAL, DISPOSED OFF AND PENDING
TRIAL IN THE CRIMINAL COURTS DURING THE YEAR 1956, 1957 1958, AND 1959**

1	2		3				4		5				
	Brought to trial 1956, 1957, 1958 and 1959.				Disposed of				Pending	Remarks.			
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1956	1957	1958	1959	1956	1957	1958	1959	
DIPHU.													
Dist. Magistrate, Magistrate 1st Class, Magistrate 2nd Class, Magistrate 3rd Class.	779	630	696	1,421	538	686	826	1,255	211	261	110	166	
HAFLONG													
S.D.O. Magistrate 1st Class, Magistrate 2nd Class.	156	198	204	229	146	184	159	191	20	24	45	38	
Total	925	1,028	900	1,650	704	870	985	1,446	231	258	155	204	

CHAPTER—XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Public Works Department :-

The Public Works Department functions at the State-level in two branches, Public Works Department, Roads and Buildings and Public Works Department, Embankment and Drainage. Each Branch is under the control of a Chief Engineer and is divided into circles and each circle is under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer. The circle is again divided into divisions, sub-divisions and sections. Divisions are under the charge of the Executive Engineers and sub-divisions are under the control of Sub-Divisional Officers while the sections are manned by Sectional Officers or Overseers.

Roads and Buildings : The Public Works Department (Roads & Buildings) which is mainly entrusted with the construction of roads, bridges and buildings, has two divisions in the district located at Diphu in the Karbi Anglong and Haflong in the North Cachar Hills. The Diphu Division falls under the control of the Superintending Engineer, Central Assam Circle, and Haflong Division under the Superintending Engineer, Southern Assam Circle.

The Diphu Division was started in 1955. It then did not cover the entire district. The construction of roads and bridges in the bordering areas of the district contiguous to the Nowgong district was entrusted by the Government, to the Nowgong East and Nowgong West Divisions. There was a separate division at Haflong functioning since 1948, only for the construction of the Shillong-Silchar Road. With the completion of the Shillong-Silchar Road, the division at Haflong was closed in 1953 but was re-opened in the year 1962. This division is now composed of two sub-divisions, Haflong-A and Haflong-B, and its jurisdiction extends over the entire North Cachar Hills for the construction of roads, bridges and buildings. Diphu Division which is also having under its control two sub-divisions, Diphu-A and Diphu-B, now covers the entire Karbi Anglong inclusive of the roads constructed by the Nowgong East & West Divisions, in Karbi Anglong.

The total kilometrage of roads constructed by the above divisions up to the year 1964-65 came to 814.85 out of which 171 kms. were black topped, 338 kms. gravelled and 1½ km. water bound and the rest were fair weather roads. These two divisions also constructed a number of buildings for various departments. The buildings constructed at Diphu were (1) Civil Hospital Buildings and Staff Quarters, (2) Civil Surgeon's Residence, Office Buildings and Staff Quarters, (3) Deputy Commissioner's residence, (4) Court and Treasury Buildings, (5) Circuit House, (6) Development Officer and 6 Upper Divisions Assistant's Quarters, (7) Government High School and Staff Quarters, (8) Technical School, (9) Executive Engineer's Office, (10) Executive Engineer's Residence, (11) Public Works Department's Staff Quarters and Sub-Divisional Officer's Residence, (12) Deputy Superintendent of Police's Residence, (13) Police Staff Quarters, and (14) Veterinary Dispensary Buildings. Construction at other places are, Dispensaries at Kolonga, Howraghat, Dillai and Majadisha, Leper Colony at Maibong, Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Gunjung, Govt. High School Buildings at Haflong, Middle English School Buildings at Mohindijua, Teacher's Quarter at Maibong and Police Station at Howraghat.

The investigation and execution of irrigation and flood control schemes, collection of hydrological and rain gauge data and maintenance of the existing projects in the district are under the control of two divisions of Jorhat and Cachar. Both the divisions have their sub-divisions. The Sub-Divisional Officer at Haflong is under the control of the Cachar Division and exercises jurisdiction over the North Cachar Hills. The Sub-Divisional Officer at Diphu is now under the control of the Nowgong Division and exercises jurisdiction over the entire Karbi Anglong excluding some schemes undertaken by the divisions of Sibsagar and Nowgong, all the Government construction work in Karbi Anglong is done under the executive control of Sub-divisional Officer, Diphu. There is also a division established recently for the construction of Bakulia Irrigation Projects. The number of irrigation projects executed or under execution have been described in detail in chapter IV.

Agriculture Department :

At the State level the Director of Agriculture is the head of the Department of Agriculture. For agricultural administration, the State of Assam is divided into three agricultural zones, Viz., Eastern, Western and Southern. Each Zone comprises a few districts and the district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills falls under the Eastern Zone with headquarters at Jorhat. Besides, the Regional Joint Director, who is the

head of the zone, there is a Regional Agricultural Engineer looking after the irrigation, reclamation and other agricultural engineering works in the zone, while the district is under the administrative control of the District Agriculture Officer stationed at Diphu. The district is divided into sub-divisions and sub-divisions are again divided into blocks according to the number of Community Development Blocks in the sub-divisions. Each sub-division is placed under the charge of a Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer, while the blocks are manned by the Extension Officers (Agriculture). The villages comprising Community Development Blocks are divided into certain groups and each group is placed under the charge of *Gram Sevaks*.

The Office of the District Agriculture Officer in the district started functioning at Diphu in 1959. Before that, the agricultural activities in the areas comprising this district were looked after by the respective District Agriculture Officers of the civil districts of which it formed part. The District Agriculture Officer, who is the head of the Agriculture Department in the district; controls, supervises, and inspects all the agricultural works and guides the field staff for the proper implementation of the agricultural schemes by organising periodical training courses. There are two Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officers posted at Diphu in the Karbi Anglong and at Haflong in the North Cachar Hills. These Sub-Divisional Officers are assisted, at the headquarter by the subject-matter specialists who are in the rank of the Inspectors. The main duty of the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer is to assist the District Agriculture Officer in the implementation of the agricultural programmes in the respective sub-divisions.

There are nine Community Development Blocks in the district, 7 in the Karbi Anglong and 2 in the North Cachar Hills. In each of these blocks, there is one Agriculture Extension Officer, who is assisted by a number of *Gram Sevaks* ranging from 5 to 10 depending upon the stage of the Community Development Block. The function of the Agriculture Extension Officer includes the formulation and execution of the agricultural programmes in consultation with the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer, District Agriculture Officer and Block Development Officer in their respective areas. The Agriculture Extension Officer and *Gram Sevaks* are the actual field workers and come into direct contact with the people either through some traditional village organisations or individually. They organise and attend meetings and give instructions to the cultivators about scientific methods of cultivation by arranging practical demonstration in the field. Sale or distribution of fertilizer, seeds, agricultural implements,

etc., are done through the *Gram Savaks*. It is they who are expected to be always ready to meet and look after the needs of the cultivators in times of distress like drought, flood, pests and diseases, etc.

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department :

The Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary who is the head of this Directorate at State level is assisted by the Joint Directors, Deputy Directors and other specialists. The whole of the State is divided into four zones, each zone being placed under the administrative control of a Joint Deputy Director. The district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills falls in the hill zone with headquarters at Shillong. At the district level the District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer is the head of this department.

The Office of the District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer was opened at Diphu in 1959. Prior to that the activities of the Department were administered by the District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officers at Nowgong, Jorhat and Silchar. The District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer is responsible for all the activities of the department including the control and supervision of the Veterinary Institutions and the proper implementation of the departmental schemes. There is only one Sub-Divisional Officer at Haflong who assists him in supervising and executing the departmental schemes in North Cachar Hills sub-division. Veterinary Dispensaries, Rural Animal Husbandry Centres and Farms and other activities of the department in the blocks are placed under the control of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, Farm Managers and Extension Officers (Animal Husbandry and Veterinary). In each of the Community Development Block, there is one Extension Officer (Animal Husbandry and Veterinary). His main function is the formulation and execution of the departmental schemes in consultation with District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer, and Block Development Officer in respective areas. He is assisted by the Veterinary Field Assistants and Livestock Demonstrators. They provide treatment to the sick animals and organise mass vaccination against contagious diseases and undertake castration of weedy bulls.

The Department has established a number of dispensaries, rural animal husbandry centres, veterinary sub-centres, bull extension centres, cattle and poultry farms etc., for treatment and upgradation of local breeds. Further activities of the department has been amply described in chapter IV.

Industries Department :

The Directorate of Industries at the State level is split up into two sections viz., (1) Major Industries and (2) Small Scale and Cottage Industries. At the district level, Superintendent of Small Scale and Cottage Industries heads the team of Govt. Officers for the development of Small Scale and Cottage Industries. He is under the immediate control of the Assistant Director, Small Scale and Cottage Industries, Nowgong. To assist the Superintendent of Industries, there is a provision of Extension Officer in all the Community Development Blocks. The function of this department is to initiate the growth and development of suitable small scale and cottage industries, by way of offering technical advice, providing finance in terms of loans or grants-in-aid and also arranging marketing facilities through Government Emporiums both at Diphu and elsewhere.

Under the State Aid To Industries Act, a Loan Advisory Board has been formed by the Government at district and sub-divisional headquarters. At Diphu, the Deputy Commissioner is the Chairman of the Board. The Superintendent of Industries is the Secretary and Development Officer, Weaving Inspector and Assistant Director of Small Scale and Cottage Industries are the members of the Board. At Haflong, the Sub-Divisional Officer is the Chairman and Superintendent of Industries is the Secretary and the other members are Weaving Inspector and Development Officer.

Besides providing financial assistance to the Industries under the State Aid To Industries Act, the Department is running some crafts training centres like tailoring, carpentry, toymaking etc., in the Community Development Blocks of Howraghat, Bokajan, Rongkhang and Maibong. There is one toy-making training-cum-production centre at Diphu where facilities for training in toy and doll-making and carpentry are available. Govt. has also recently opened one Industrial Training Institute at Diphu.

Co-operative Department :

The Co-operative Department in the district functions under the control of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies. He is responsible for the effective and proper working of all types of Co-operative Societies in the district. He inspects, and conducts inquiries into the affairs of the societies and supervises the work of their staff. There are two Sub-Divisional Deputy Co-operative Officers at Diphu and Haflong who supervise the Co-operative Societies in their respective sub-divisions.

Besides, there are Deputy Co-operative Officers for auditing the Societies at the sub-divisional office. The sub-division is divided into circles depending upon the number of Community Development Blocks in the sub-division. There are nine circles, in the district, 7 in Karbi Anglong and 2 in North Cachar Hills, and in each of these circles, there is one Assistant Co-operative Officer. He is to look after the organisation and inspection besides any other duty assigned to him.

At the end of 1968, the total number of Co-operative Credit Societies in the district stood at 212. Of these, 193 were Primary Agricultural Credit Societies and 19 were Primary Non-Agricultural Credit Societies. Karbi Anglong had 67 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies and 15 Primary Non-Agricultural Credit Societies against North Cachar Hills' 38 and 74 respectively.

Forest Department :

Forests in Assam are divided into two categories, viz. Unclassed State Forests and Reserved Forests. Unclassed State Forests were under the control of the respective District Councils. The District Councils used to have their own staff for the control and management of the Unclassed State Forests. Reserved Forest in the district were under the control of four forest divisions of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Cachar. The United Mikir and North Cachar Hills Division formerly known as the Dhansiri Valley Division shifted its headquarters to Diphu from Dimapur in October, 1963. Recently, the management and control of the Reserved Forests in the district have also been transferred to the respective District Council. Presently, both the Unclassed State Forests and Reserved Forest in Karbi Anglong are managed by the two forest divisions, namely, Karbi Anglong Forest Division, East and Karbi Anglong Forest Division, West and those of the North Cachar Hills by North Cachar Hills Forest Division.

The administrative pattern of all the forest divisions are the same except for the strength of personnel which depends upon the area, number, and importance of the Reserved Forests under the administrative control of the particular forest division. The Divisional Forest Officer is the administrative head of the division. He is assisted by a number of intermediate Officers consisting of the Assistant Conservators of Forests, Range Officers, Beat Officers and Forest Guards etc. For administrative purposes each division is divided into ranges and all ranges in turn are divided and sub-divided in Beats and Sub-Beats. The Officer-in-Charge

of the Range is called Range Officer and that of Beat is Beat Officer. Generally, forest beat is manned by the Forest Guard Grade 1, assisted by two or more Forest Guards but sometimes, depending upon the importance of the range into consideration, one Deputy Ranger is also posted. Sub-beats are always manned by Forest Guards.

The functions of the forest Department are the protection and scientific working out of the forest to secure the maximum use of its products ; replenishing the stock of timber and other minor forest produce by undertaking afforestation and other regeneration schemes and planning for the long range development of forest resources ; maintenance of a regular supply of raw materials for the forest based industries ; maintenance of forest *Dak bungalows* and rest houses, roads, buildings etc., as well as opening of new lines of communication to facilitate the development and utilization of the forest resources ; conservation of wild-life and enforcement of forest laws etc.

CHAPTER—XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

(a) HISTORY OF LOCAL-SELF GOVERNMENT IN THE DISTRICT

The history of the Local-Self Government in the District of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills may be traced back to the year 1895 when the sub-divisional head-quarters from Gunjung were transferred to Haflong and following the construction of Assam Bengal Railway line (Hill section) in 1904, the inevitable necessity of opening of a regular *haat* (market) in the area arose. Proposal was submitted to the Govt. and the then Chief Commissioner of Assam sanctioned the creation of Haflong Bazar Fund which continued to function till 1912 when it was changed to Bazar Fund of North Cachar Hills. In 1931, Haflong Town Fund Committee was constituted with five members¹ under The Assam Municipal Act, 1923, with the S.D.O. North Cachar Hills, Haflong, as chairman and D.E.N. (H) Assam Bengal Railway, Haflong, as Vice Chairman and other three nominated members-two under the nomination of Governor and the one under the nomination of the Agent, Assam, Bengal Rly. The Committee was then known as the Town Fund Committee, Haflong.

Under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, autonomous status was conferred on erstwhile Mikir Hills sub-division and the North Cachar Hills sub-division constituting them into Mikir Hills Autonomous District and North Cachar Hills Autonomous District. Name of Mikir Hills since has been changed to Karbi Anglong. The establishment of a Village or Town Committee within the autonomous district is vested with the District Council of the respective autonomous district under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India and accordingly, in pursuance to that, both the District Councils have passed Acts and framed rules thereunder for the administration and constitution of the Town Committee in their respective areas.

The North Cachar Hills District Council passed The North Cachar Hills District (Administration Of Town Committees) Act, 1956 and framed rules thereunder by enacting The North Cachar Hills District (Constitution Of Town Committees) Rules, 1963. Under Section 3 of The North Cachar

Hills District (Town Committees), Act, 1956, the Executive Committee may by notification published in the Assam Gazette, signify its intention to constitute a Town Committee for any specified area where it considers improved arrangements are necessary to deal with all or any of the matters referred to in the Schedule appended to this Act. It is also provided that for such notified area a Committee consisting of such members to be appointed or elected on the basis of adult suffrage or partly so appointed and partly so elected as the Executive Committee may by notification direct. The Haflong Town Committee in North Cachar Hills functioning since 1931 came under the purview of the said Act where in, it is provided under the Sub-Section 5 of the Section 4 of the Act that Haflong Town Committee constituted under the Rules published with the Govt. of Assam Notification No.301-LSG. dated 8th May, 1931, shall be deemed to have been established under the provision of this Act.

Like the North Cachar Hills District Council, Karbi Anglong District Council also enacted The Mikir Hills District (Administration Of Town Committee) Act, 1954 and framed rules thereunder by enacting The Mikir Hills District (Constitution Of Town Committees) Rules, 1958. Provisions of The Mikir Hills District (Administration Of Town Committees) Act, 1954 are more or less the same as described in the preceding paragraphs under The North Cachar Hills District (Administration Of Town Committees) Act, 1956.

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 4 of The Mikir Hills District (Administration Of Town Committees) Act, 1954, a Town Committee consisting of 5 members for a term of 3 years with effect from 24th April, 1961 was appointed by the Executive Committee for Diphu Town, Secretary to the District Council being the Ex-officio Chairman of it.

(b) MUNICIPAL CORPORATION :

Organisation and structures, powers and duties, financial resources, special achievements etc. :

Haflong Town Committee : The Haflong Town Committee functioning since 1931 came under the purview of the North Cachar Hills District Council with effect from 1.4.1953* and is now governed by The North Cachar Hills District (Administration Of Town Committees) Act, 1956 and rules framed thereunder. It consists of five members including

2. Govt. letter No. TAD/LE/19 50 29 dated 23. 3. 1953,

1. Assam Govt. Notification No. 301-LSG 8th May, 1931.

President and Vice President appointed by the Executive Committee of North Cachar Hills District Council. The Town Committee is empowered to impose within its area tax on holdings, water tax and latrine tax. It may also charge rents, tolls and fees on goods for sale in markets under its control and for the use of shops, stalls, and standings therein.

Receipts of the Town Committee may be broadly divided into (1) income from its own resources and (2) grants and contributions from the District Council and State Government. Income from its own resources mainly comprises collection from taxes the Town Committee has imposed. These are holding tax, latrine tax, water tax, rent on shop sites, taxes on animals etc. Other items of receipts are licence fees, sale proceeds etc. Revenue from Committee's resources is showing an upward trend and has increased from Rs.20,905/- in 1951 to Rs.49,629/- in 1960-61 and to Rs.76,497/- in 1964-65. The increase is almost four times within a span of 14 years. The holding, latrine and water taxes almost contribute three-fourths of the receipts of the Town Committee's own resources.

Grants and contributions from the District Council and State Government are also important sources of income to the Haflong Town Committee to supplement revenue to meet the increasing rate of expenditure. Though there has not been any uniform pattern in giving grants by the State Government and the North Cachar Hills District Council, the grants from the above mentioned sources have been liberal during all these years. The Town Committee is also receiving a grant, amounting to Rs.360/- from the Red Cross. Besides, the North Cachar Hills District Council has also been given a loan of Rs.3,000/- in 1957-58 and 1958-59 respectively. The following table shows the receipts of the Town Committee. :-

APPENDIX—1
Statement showing the Receipts of the Town Committee Haflong 1951—52 to 1964-65

Heads of Income		1951-52	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
TAXES	Holding Tax	4,803.30	9,356.24	9,463.71	10,704.66	9,118.21	11,573.55
	Latrine Tax	5,017.08	10,349.29	12,304.31	11,924.25	11,648.18	12,890.64
	Water Tax	3,137.67	6,509.89	7,713.48	7,632.01	7,765.17	8,751.98
	Rent on shops sites	3,752.81	5,079.69	4,022.56	4,397.91	3,647.46	4,192.60
	Taxes on animals	120.75	135.00	169.00	84.90	63.63	80.07
	Sale proceeds	2,326.25	2,387.50	1,011.75	2,570.50	1,486.50	1,350.00
	License fee & House Tax.	461.30	513.35	612.50	707.65	988.74	1,064.00
	Miscellaneous.	1,286.00	2,802.56	5,331.61	2,294.38	1,728.46	1,064.15
	Total	20,905.16	37,133.52	40,628.92	40,336.26	36,426.35	40,966.99
	1. Genl. purposes	Nil	—	1,200.00	4,000.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Grants & contributions from District Council.	2. Compensatory	Nil	500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	3. Miscellaneous	Nil	—	550.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
	4. Share of <i>Dao</i> Tax.	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
	Others	Nil	—	—	9,400.00	1,080.00	—
	Total	—	500.00	3,700.00	15,900.00	9,000.00	8,000.00
Grants from Red Cross							
—		720.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	360.00
Grants & contributions from State Govt.	1. Genl. purposes	5,400.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	2. Development	19,700.00	13,100.00	16,907.00	20,000.00	49,100.00	35,000.00
	3. Others	876.00	1,300.00	25,000.00	10,000.00	1,300.00	12,000.00
	Total	25,976.00	18,900.00	36,407.00	34,500.00	6,400.00	57,000.00
Loans & advances from District Council to augment the fund of the Committee.		Nil	Nil	Nil	3000.00	—	—
Loans & advances from the State Govt. for building purposes.		Nil	Nil	Nil	30,000.00	14,000.00	—
Total		47,601.16	56,893.52	81,095.92	1,24,096.26	12,018.35	1,06,326.99

APPENDIX—1 (Contd.)
Statement showing the Receipts of the Town Committee, Haflong 1951-52. to 1965-65

Heads of Income		1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
		9	10	11	12	13
TAXES	Holding Tax	13,363.27	11,616.12	8,960.78	13,312.09	20,014.44
	Latrine Tax	16,093.87	14,836.42	13,204.67	15,550.21	21,091.01
	Water Tax	10,847.81	10,145.99	8,831.10	10,911.18	16,131.58
	Rent on Shops sites	4,279.92	4,77.15	4,426.11	5,248.92	6,971.32
	Taxes on animals	63.95	66.04	119.70	106.87	22.33
	Sale proceeds	1,200.00	4,387.50	6,343.00	7,602.00	8,596.25
	License fee & House Tax. }	798.40	717.61	998.00	737.53	993.00
	Miscellaneous.	2,980.92	1,734.17	2,542.15	3,887.12	2,677.70
	Total	49,628.14	48,776.00	45,425.51	57,359.92	76,497.63
	1. Genl. purposes	5,500.00	4,000.00	5,000.00	4,500.00	2,000.00
Grants & contributions from District Council.	2. Compensatory	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	—
	3. Miscellaneous	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
	4. Share of Dao Tax.	—	—	—	800.00	100.00
	Others	3,000.00	8,000.00	20,167.00	19,500.00	20,000.00
Total		11,000.00	14,500.00	27,667.00	27,300.00	22,600.00
Grants from Red Cross		360.00	—	360.00	360.00	360.00
Grants & contributions from State Govt.	1. Genl. purposes	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	2. Development	44,500.00	—	1,800.00	—	—
	3. Others	—	13,600.00	—	14,500.00	10,000.00
Total		54,500.00	23,600.00	11,800.00	24,500.00	20,000.00
Loans & advances from District Council to augment the fund of the Committee.		—	—	—	—	—
Loans & advances from the State Govt. for building purposes.		—	—	—	—	—
Total		1,15,488.14	86,876.00	85,252.51	1,09,515.92	1,19,557.63

The expenditure of the Town Committee is rapidly on increase though with fluctuations. It has increased from Rs. 49,464/- in 1951-52 to 1,06,219/- in 1960-61 and to Rs.1,21,115/- in 1964-65. It reached the highest figure of Rs.1,40,882/- in 1959-60. The expenditure may be categorised into five heads of General Administration, Public Safety, Public Health and Sanitation, Public Works and Miscellaneous. The expenditure under the General Administration was more than twice in 1964-65 from that of 1951-52.

The expenditure under the head Public Safety, comprises expenditure on street lightening, police, fire establishments, buckets, etc. Expenditure under this head is showing an upward trend and the street lighting forms the major part of it. Public Health and Sanitation accounts for almost half of the total expenditure of the Haflong Town Committee. From Rs.29,915/- in 1951-52, it has increased to Rs.63,888/- in 1964-65. Important sub-heads under this head are water supply, conservancy and road clearing etc. The expenditure under the other two heads of Public Works and Miscellaneous are also on increase. The following table shows the expenditure of the Haflong Town Committee.

Statement of Expenditure of the Haflong Town Committee.

Heads of Expenditure	Items	1951-52	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. General Administration.	—	5,208.72	4,675.37	5,430.09	6,333.27	6,205.29	7,539.91
2. Public Safety	1. Fire (Estt., buckets, repairs etc.)	40.75	61.00	130.00	122.00	160.20	—
	2. Lighting.	669.06	775.86	1,096.56	830.85	769.82	926.03
	3. Police.	264.00	583.54	600.50	504.51	411.00	377.80
3. Public Health & Sanitation.	1. Water Supply.	18,220.25	24,224.86	25,530.89	25,329.43	18,462.61	22,419.52
	2. Drainage	92.62	511.00	101.00	1,000.00	991.00	—
	3. Conservancy, road clearing, latrine.	7,451.69	9,005.19	9,051.24	9,646.09	10,299.91	13,816.53
	4. Hospital & dispensary.	726.00	875.00	941.62	926.00	981.00	1,328.30
	5. Markets & slaughter houses.	87.62	3,991.00	1,223.00	3,987.50	1,289.32	1,198.00
	6. Public gardens, parks.	8.12	25.00	329.87	265.08	4,595.17	769.96
	7. Anti-malarial works.	3,329.02	690.75	899.62	750.03	1,041.02	890.25
4. Public Works.	1. Building.	537.25	1,031.19	1,282.44	5,633.24	29,578.70	55,803.33
	2. Roads.	2,954.62	10,089.69	20,967.25	23,563.37	42,565.51	42,881.55
	3. Stores.	25.00	65.12	43.87	45.00	76.51	385.92
5. Miscellaneous.	—	9,849.75	10,425.87	13,025.50	15,157.50	14,998.17	12,437.96
6. Any other item (refund etc.).	—	—	86.62	—	—	—	100.00
	Total	49,464.47	67,120.06	81,658.45	94,074.87	1,32,428.43	1,40,882.56

(Contd.)

Statement of Expenditure of the Haflong Town Committee.

Heads of Expenditure	Items	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
		9	10	11	12	13
1. General Administration.	—	7,599.23	9,329.51	8,931.89	10,633.27	12,064.56
2. Public Safety	1. Fire (Estt., buckets, repairs etc.)	189.32	151.00	140.00	—	136.00
	2. Lighting.	822.28	1,581.86	1,080.43	1,422.95	1,213.97
	3. Police.	424.60	545.65	428.45	444.00	430.89
3. Public Health & Sanitation.	1. Water Supply.	15,955.65	13,982.47	15,331.76	11,193.65	21,604.16
	2. Drainage	219.00	1,535.00	1,018.00	4,988.00	7,897.00
	3. Conservancy, road clearing, latrine.	16,583.20	15,607.56	18,936.75	19,475.29	20,161.49
	4. Hospital & dispensary.	4,897.24	5,038.45	2,335.20	1,537.20	1,432.80
	5. Markets & slaughter houses.	1,343.00	608.00	468.00	3,696.00	3,119.00
	6. Public gardens, parks.	5,879.84	1,231.53	846.60	1,155.50	1,550.00
	7. Anti-malarial works.	793.60	825.32	1,093.36	801.91	1,623.74
4. Public Works.	1. Building.	2,921.61	1,606.56	1,702.50	17,496.98	6,934.59
	2. Roads.	33,715.53	18,307.17	19,085.15	13,752.60	12,579.00
	3. Stores.	—	334.69	—	184.12	503.12
5. Miscellaneous.	—	14,884.44	14,191.77	14,873.71	17,993.75	24,260.44
6. Any other item (refund etc.).	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	1,06,219.54	84,876.54	86,321.80	1,04,774.62	1,21,115.76

The Town Committee has a water supply arrangement of its own to supply the filtered water to the Town and the cost incurred on the project was about a lakh of rupees. The water supply from the existing water works being insufficient to meet the growing requirements, another water supply scheme with an estimated cost of Rs.5 lakhs was executed by the Government of Assam. The other activities of the Town Committee are conservancy works like latrine, clearing of roads and drains, sweeping etc. The town beautification scheme is also in progress. About a lakh of rupees is already spent to improve the roads in the town and other schemes such as improvement of lakes, parking arrangement etc., are in progress.

(ii) Diphu Town Committee : The Diphu Town Committee was constituted in 1961 under the Mikir Hills District (Administration Of Town Committees) Act, 1954 and rules framed thereunder. The Town Committee consisting of 5 members was constituted by the Executive Committee, Karbi Anglong District Council vide Notification No.3451 dated 24th April, 1961 under Section 4 of The Mikir Hills District (Administration Of The Town Committee) Act, 1954. The Secretary to the Karbi Anglong District Council is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Town Committee.

The Town Committee has not yet taken up any municipal activities except street lighting and clearing of *jungles* in the town. Public Health Department, Govt. of Assam, has taken a water supply scheme for the Diphu town. The work is in progress. The Town Committee has levied holding tax in the Town at the rate of Rs.20/- quarterly for each *pucca* house and Rs.10/- for each *kuchha* House. A statement of income and expenditure of the Town Committee is as follows :-

Heads	Items	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
I	Taxes				
N	Holding Tax	3,912.32	10,575.00	10,260.00	18,815.50
C	Miscellaneous	—	—	—	60.00
O	Grants from District Council	2,830.00	3,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
M	Grants from State Government.	—	—	1,500.00	—
E					
	Grand Total	6,742.86	13,575.00	12,760.53	21,875.50

Heads	Items	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
E	General Administra-	2,616.65	4,172.34	8,154.00	13,807.90
X T	tion and Establish-				
P U	ment etc.	—	197.54	148.25	363.75
E R					
N E	Miscellaneous	1,514.35	—	—	—
D S.					
I					
	Light	1,692.00	3,214.50	3,884.00	3,941.75
	Grand Total	5,823.00	7,584.34	12,186.25	18,113.40

(c) **DISTRICT AND LOCAL BOARDS** : Organisation and structure, powers and duties, financial resources, special achievements, if any.

No District or Local Boards exists in the district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills. The District is composed of the two autonomous districts, i.e., (1) Autonomous District of Karbi Anglong and (2) Autonomous District of North Cachar Hills. There is a separate District Council functioning in each of these Autonomous Districts independent of each other. The District Council of an Autonomous District should not be confused with District or Local Boards or *Mahkuma Parishads* functioning in the plains districts of Assam. Unlike District or Local Boards or *Mahkuma Parishads* which are the creation of the State Government, the District Council of an autonomous district derives its existence from the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

District Councils : The Administration of the Autonomous District is vested in the District Council and it has power to make laws in respect of the allotment, occupation or use or setting apart a land for the purposes of the agriculture or grazing or for residential or other non-agricultural or for any purpose likely to promote the interests of the inhabitants of any village or town, the management of any forest (Unclassed State Forests), the use of canal or water course for purposes of agriculture, the regulation of the practice of the *jhum* cultivation or other forms of cultivation, the establishment of village or town police and public health and sanitation, the appointment or succession of chiefs or headman, inheritance of property, marriage and social customs. All laws made by the

District Council shall be submitted forthwith to the Governor and until assented to by him shall have no effect.

The District Council may constitute village councils or courts for the trial of suits and cases between the parties belonging to Scheduled tribes within their respective areas. They may also appoint suitable persons to be members of village councils or presiding officers of these courts. They may appoint Officers necessary for the administration of the laws. The District Council shall exercise the powers of court of appeal in respect of suits and cases triable by a village council or court. No other court except the High Court and Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction over such suits or cases. The Gauhati High Court shall have and exercise such jurisdiction over the suits and cases as the Governor may from time to time by order specify. The District Council may, with the previous approval of the Governor of Assam, make rules regulating the constitution of village council or courts and the powers to be exercised by them, the procedure to be followed by the village councils or courts in the trial of suits and cases, the procedure to be followed by the District Council or any court constituted by such Councils in appeals and other proceedings, the enforcement of decision and order of such councils and courts and all other ancillary matters.

The Governor may for trial of suits or cases arising out of any law in force in any autonomous district or region, being laws specified in that behalf by the Governor, or for the trial of offences punishable with death, transportation for life or imprisonment or for a term of not less than 5 years under the Indian Penal code or under any other law applicable in that area, confer on the District Council concerned or on courts constituted by the District Council or any other Officer appointed for that purpose by the Governor, such powers under the Code of Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure and modify any of the powers given above. Then only the said council or the court can apply these Codes. In other cases, the Code of Civil Procedure and Code of Criminal Procedure shall not apply.

The District Council may establish, construct, or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, cattle pounds, ferries, fisheries, roads and water ways in the autonomous district and may prescribe the language and the manner in which the primary education shall be imparted in the primary schools in the autonomous district.

The District Council shall have the power to assess and collect revenue in respect of lands in their respective areas. In addition to the power of levying and collecting taxes on lands and buildings and tolls

on persons residing within such areas, it shall have power to levy and collect taxes on professions, trades, callings and employments, taxes on animals, vehicles and boats, taxes on entry of goods into market for sales and tolls on passengers and goods carried in ferries and taxes for the maintenance of schools, dispensaries or roads. It may also make regulations for the regulation and control of money-lending or trading within the district.

By a notification, the Governor may direct that any Act of Parliament or that of State Legislature, shall not apply to the autonomous district or shall apply to such district or any part thereof subject to such exceptions and modifications as may be specified in the notification. The Governor may at any time appoint a Commission to examine report on any matter specified by him relating to the administration of autonomous district in the State. If at any time, the Governor is satisfied that an Act or resolution of the district council is likely to endanger the safety of India, he may annul or suspend such Act or resolution. He may take such steps, he may consider necessary to prevent the commission or continuance of such Act or giving effect to such resolution. Any order made by the Governor shall be laid before the legislature of the State as soon as possible and the order shall, unless revoked earlier by the legislature, continue to be in force for a period of 12 months from the date on which it was so made.

On the recommendation of the Commission, the Governor may order the dissolution of a District Council and direct that a fresh election shall be held for the reconstitution of the Council. With the approval of the State Legislature, he may assume the administration of the area himself or put the same under a Commission or any other body considered suitable by him.

The Governor shall make rules for the first constitution of the District Councils in consultation with the existing Tribal Councils or other representatives of tribal organisations within the autonomous district. These rules shall provide for the composition of the District Council and the allocations of seats therein and the delimitation of territorial constituencies for purposes of elections to those Councils, the qualifications for voting at such elections and the preparations of electoral rolls, qualifications for being elected at such elections, the term of Office of the Members of the Councils, the procedure and conduct of business in the District Council and the appointment of officers and staff of the district.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the above paragraph, (Sub para 6 of para 2 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India) and the rules framed thereunder by the Governor of Assam (The Assam Autonomous Districts Constitution Of District Councils Rules, 1951), the two District Councils consisting of 16 members each for Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Districts were constituted in 1951 and 1952 respectively. Out of these, 12 members were elected by the adult franchise and 4 were nominated by the Governor. The term of the District Council shall be for 5 years from the date of its first meeting unless dissolved earlier. The said period may be extended by the Governor, by notification in the Gazette for a period not exceeding one year at a time. The District Council shall be summoned to meet four times a year. In the event of emergency, with the previous approval of the Governor or on receipt of a requisition signed by not less than 2/3 members of the Council, the Chairman shall summon a special meeting of District Council.

To preside over the meeting of the District Council and to perform such other functions akin to the State-Legislature, there are the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman for each District Council. They are directly elected by the members of the respective District Councils and continue to function till they enjoy the confidence of the house (District Council).

The District Council for an Autonomous District in respect of all areas within the district have power to make or amend laws, regulations and rules in respect of matters falling within the purview of the District Council as specified in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. All such proposals to make or amend laws, regulations and rules are to be introduced in the District Council in form of Bills. Bills introduced on behalf of the Executive Committee are termed as 'Official Bills' and by the members of the District Council in their individual rights are 'Private Members' Bill. No Bill shall be introduced in the District Council without the prior approval of the Governor. Copies of all Official and Private Member's Bills shall be sent to the Governor through the Deputy Commissioner sufficiently in advance, for publication in the Gazette and no Bill shall be published in the Gazette until the permission of the Governor to such publication has been obtained. To become law, a Bill has to pass all the three stages of readings ordinarily prescribed for the law. When a Bill has been passed by the District Council and authenticated by the Chairman, the Secretary to the District Council shall send the authenticated copy of the Bill to the Deputy Commissioner for submission to the Governor for his assent. The Governor may assent to the Bill or may return the Bill to the District Council for reconsideration.

The point or points referred to for reconsideration or amendments recommended, shall be put before the District Council and a copy thereof signed by the Chairman shall be submitted to the Governor for his assent. After receiving the assent of the Governor, it shall be published in the Gazette and on such publication shall have the force of law.

To exercise the executive function of the District Council there is an Executive Committee for each District Council. The Executive Committee shall consist of three members with Chief Executive Member at the head. The Chief Executive Member is elected by the District Council and two Executive Members, amongst the Members of the District Council are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Executive Member. The Executive Committee shall be collectively responsible to the District Council and may be removed on a vote of no-confidence passed by a majority of the members of the District Council at a meeting specially convened for the purpose. In case the Executive Committee resigns or is removed on a vote of no-confidence motion and if the District Council fails to elect new Chief Executive Member within specified time of 48 hours, the Governor shall appoint any member of the Council to be the Chief Executive Member. The Executive Committee so constituted shall continue to function until it is replaced by an Executive Committee constituted in the manner as mentioned earlier.³

Karbi Anglong District Council : It was formerly known as Mikir Hills District Council : It came into being on 23rd June, 1952. It has jurisdiction over an area of 10,332 square kilometres with a population of 2,25,407 according to the Census of 1961. It consists of 16 members out of which 12 are elected by the adult franchise and rest are nominated by the Governor. Since the formation of this Autonomous District, three District Council Elections were held in 1952, 1957 and 1962 and there were four bye-elections, two during the first term, one during the second term, and one in the third term of the District Council.

There is only one political party in this Autonomous District, namely Congress but there is another organisation of the tribal people living in the District known as *Karbi-Darbar*. This organisation was established during the year 1945. It is a socio-political organisation with the aims and objects to bring out the all round development of the tribal people of this Autonomous District.

3. Assam Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils Rules), 1951, pp 2-26.

The party position after each term of election is given below :

Term	Year	Party position after each election.		Total
		Congress	Independent. or Karbi-Darbar	
1	2	3	4	5
First Term— After 1952				
General Elections				
Elected		10	2	
Nominated		4	—	16
After 1st Bye-election,				
Elected		10	2	
Nominated		4	—	16
After 2nd Bye-election,				
Nominated		4	—	
Elected		10	2	16
2nd Term— After 1957				
General Election,				
Elected		11	1	
Nominated		4	—	16
After 1st Bye-election				
Elected		11	1	
Nominated		4	—	16
3rd Term— After 1962 General				
Election,				
Elected		12	—	
Nominated		4	—	16
After 1st Bye-election				
Elected		11	1	
Nominated		4	—	16

Administrative Set-up : The District Council has divided its office administration into several branches, viz., Land Revenue, Forest, Taxes, General Administration, Education and Public Works.

Land Revenue Branch : This Branch is responsible for assessment of land revenue, local rate, house tax etc., and collection of the same. Allotment of land for various purposes and settlement of lands with individuals are done by this branch in accordance with the Council's land distribution policy. Over and above, these regular revenue works, assessment and collection of grazing tax and collection of revenue thereof is also a responsibility of this branch.

The Circle System of Land Revenue Administration was brought into force in this district from the year Land Revenue Administration was transferred to Karbi Anglong District Council. At present, there are three revenue circles namely Diphu, Phuloni and Donka divided into twenty *mauzas*. The *Mauzadar* is responsible for collection of land revenue and house tax within his *mauza*. He is assisted by *Sarkari Gaonbura*.

There is a Land Settlement Advisory Board to advise the council on matters relating to settlement of land. The Secretary of the District Council is also the Revenue Officer.

Forest Branch : This branch looks after the management of forests within this autonomous district. All matters relating to assessment and collection of royalties on various forest produces, afforestations and regeneration are looked after by this branch.

Tax Branch : This branch is responsible for issue of licences, registration of carts, boats, vehicles etc., under provisions of The Mikir Hills (Trading By Non-tribals) Act, 1953 and Mikir Hills District (Carts, Cycles, Boats) Taxation Act, 1954 and collection of taxes on trades, fees and tolls levied on licences for trading by non-tribals and on ferries, cattle pound, fisheries etc. Collection including enquiries into matters relating to licences etc., are made through officers, designated as *Bazar supervisors*. Other revenues such as Council's share of royalties on minor minerals, elephant *mahals* and motor vehicles etc., are collected by this Branch, through the State Tribal Areas and Welfare of Backward Classes Department from the Departments concerned.

General Administration : Execution of policy laid down by the District Council from time to time is the main duty of this branch. The legislative side of the District Council is also merged in the General Administration.

On the Executive side besides exercising the general supervision over all the branches under the District Council, it is responsible for (1) dealing with policy matters of District Council, (2) holding of Executive Committee meetings, (3) preparation of budget, (4) all financial matters including sanction of various works and schemes, (5) settlement of contracts, (6) general administration, (7) supply and maintenance of stores, (8) maintenance of accounts and cash, (9) correspondences with Govt. and other offices etc.

On the legislative side it deals in all matters relating to (1) District Council Sessions, (2) drafting of bills, resolutions, motions etc. The branch is directly under the control of the Secretary of the District Council.

Education Branch : Education at the primary level within the autonomous district is under the control and management of the District Council. The Council has 98 Lower Primary Schools of its own which it manages from its own fund and is shouldering the responsibility of management and control of 184 Govt. L.P. Schools and 30 Basic L.P. Schools transferred from Govt. with effect from 1.8.61.

The Education Branch of the District Council has one Education Officer with five Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools under him to supervise the working and teaching in the Schools. This branch deals in all matters relating to education, general administration of staff and teachers under it with the Education Officer at its head.

The Education Officer implements the policies framed by the Primary Education Board with the Executive Member in-charge of Education as its Chairman and the Deputy Inspector of Schools as its Secretary.

Works Branch : The Works Branch under the charge of an Assistant Engineer supervises the execution of all works, both original and repairs, i.e., works relating to rural communication, rural water supply, self help schemes, construction, repairs and maintenance of Council Offices and buildings and maintenance of Council's vehicles etc.

There are five Overseers under the Assistant Engineer, each with the jurisdiction over specific areas spread over the entire autonomous district. There are Sub-Overseers and *Mohoris* under the Overseers for better execution and supervision of works.

The Secretary of the District Council is in over all charge of all these branches mentioned above. He is the Secretary to the Executive

Committee as well as the Secretary for Legislative side as this District Council has no separate Secretary for Legislative wing. Besides general supervision, he implements the decision of the Executive Committee and the Council and on the financial sides, he exercises all control over the District Fund as empowered by the Fund Rules. It is the duty and responsibility of this Officer to keep the Executive Committee informed of such matters which in his opinion, the Executive Committee should be informed, and to obtain the Executive Committee's orders on policy matters and on such other matters as he considers necessary.

Executive Committee : According to Rule 28 and 29 of the Assam Autonomous Districts (Constitution Of District Council) Rules 1951, all the executive functions of the District Council are vested in the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee in case of Karbi Anglong is composed of the Chief Executive Member at the head and two other Executive Members. The subjects falling under the purview of the District Council are allotted to the three members of the Executive Committee.

The Mikir Hills District (Salaries And Allowances Of The Executive Members) Act, 1958 as amended from time to time provide for salaries and allowances of the Executive Members. The Chief Executive Member and Executive Member used to draw salaries of Rs.500/- and Rs.350/- monthly respectively which has been raised to Rs.600/- and Rs.400/- per month respectively with effect from 1-4-64 vide the Mikir Hills District (Salaries And Allowances Of The Executive Members) First Amendment Act, 1963 and the Mikir Hills District (Salaries And Allowances Of The Executive Members Second Amendment) Act, 1963 respectively. The Executive Members are provided with free furnished residences with grounds and apartments there to be maintained at District Council's expenses at Diphu free of all rents, assessments, taxes or cesses due to District Council or to any other local bodies and are entitled to travelling and halting allowances as are admissible to class I Officers of the State Govt. Member of District Council gets a monthly pay of Rs.200/- and a daily allowance at the rate of Rs.10.50 paise for the number of days they attend the Session of the District Council plus two days extra.

The Secretary and Assistant Revenue Officers are all Officers of Assam Govt. from Assam Civil Service whose services have been placed at the disposal of the Council on deputation. Some of the Senior Office Assistants, Overseers, Land Record Staff and Assistant Sub-Inspector of Schools etc., are also on deputation from Govt. services. Other Employees in the cadre are appointed against vacancies generally by advertisement.

Subject to suitability in all respects, preferences are, however given to local tribal candidates. The District Council has not framed any rule regulating the conditions of services of its employees. It is following the relevant Government of Assam Rules as provided in Rule 15 of the Assam Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules 1951.

ACTIVITIES OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL : Legislative : The Council has enacted a number of Acts, Rules and Regulations since its inception in accordance with the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. The list of the same has been given in Ch. X

The Council has not levied tolls on persons residing in the District or on goods and passengers carried on ferries nor taxes for maintenance of schools, dispensaries and roads. The District Council has also not levied fees for the administration of laws regarding allotment of land, distribution of *jhumland*, the use of canals or water courses for the purpose of agriculture or for the administration of inheritance of property, marriage and social customs.

Though the District Council has enacted the Mikir Hills Autonomous District (Administration Of Justice) Rules 1954, the Council has not taken over the administration of justice.

To protect and promote the interests of the inhabitants of this District as well as to protect the tribal people, against alienation of their land, the Mikir Hills (Transfer Of Land) Regulation 1959 was introduced to put restriction on the transfer by sale, mortgage, lease, barter, gift or otherwise of land by a tribal to a non-tribal or by a non-tribal to another non-tribal. No such transfer can be effected without the previous permission of the Executive Committee. This piece of protective law has not been effective as there is no legal bar on transfer of right of possession through mutual consent which resulted in spreading of non-tribal refugee habitation throughout the district.

The Mikir Hills (Money-lending By Non-Tribals) Regulation, 1953 was introduced for regulating the system of money-lending in this Autonomous District and to safeguard the tribal people from unscrupulous and usurious money-lenders. Among other legislations introduced to safeguard the tribal interests, Mikir Hills District (Trading By Non-Tribals) Regulation, 1953 and the Mikir Hills District (Jhumming) Regulation, 1953 are

important. The first one provides for regulation and control of trading by non-tribals in the Autonomous District and the latter to control, minimise and substitutes the practice of shifting cultivation prevalent amongst the tribal people and thereby to improve the economic conditions of the tribals.

By introducing the Mikir Hills (Land And Revenue) Act, 1953, the District Council had adopted the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 with subsequent Amendments for the sake of uniformity of Rules and procedure prevailing in other districts of the State of Assam and for providing for recognition of rights over land etc. With a view to protect soil and crop by regulating grazing of cattle, the District Council has also adopted all laws in force in the State of Assam in respect of regulation of grazing in this Autonomous District.

The District Council has set up a town committee under the Mikir Hills District (Administration Of The Town Committee) Act, 1954, in the fast growing headquarters of Diphu Town. The Town Committee is functioning since 1961 with the District Council Revenue Officer (Secretary of the District Council) as its Chairman.

Apart from the above Acts and Regulations, the District Council by Resolutions from time to time in Council-in-session adopted certain policies mainly in the matters of settlement of lands, grazing etc., within the perview of the relevant rules.

Education : The spread of education among the people of this backward district, is an essential pre-requisite to their all round development and since its inception, the Council has paid devoted attention for the expansion of education. During the very year of its inception inspite of its meagre fund position, the District Council established 21 Primary Schools mostly in the interior areas of Karbi Anglong. Apart from establishing these schools, the District Council has to spend annually a sum of Rs.22,000/- in maintaining these schools. During 1953-54 and 1954-55, twelve and eighteen more Primary Schools respectively were established by the Council. For proper and effective supervision of the District Council schools, one Sub-Inspector of Schools and one Assistant Sub-Inspector of Schools were appointed. In 1955-56, twenty three more Primary Schools were added to the existing Schools and another Assistant Sub-Inspector of Schools was appointed raising the number of Inspecting staff to 3. During the next two years 15 more Primary Schools were establi-

shed, bringing the total number of District Council Schools to 89 at the end of 1958-59 and in the year of 1959-60, the number of District Council Schools rose to 97.

During the year of 1961-62, the responsibility and management of 214 Govt. Primary Schools including Basic Schools was transferred to the District Council as a result of an agreement between the State Govt. and the District Council. Services of the two Govt. Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools were also placed at the disposal of the Council on deputation under this agreement. A Board of Primary Education was set up with 9 members with the Executive Member in-charge of Education Portfolio as its Chairman and the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Diphu, as its *ex-officio* Secretary of the Board. The District Council controls and manages Primary Education through the agency of this Board.

In 1962-63, the District Council took up 107 numbers of new venture schools from the Govt. grant made available to the District Council under Third Five Year Plan. This District Council took up another 28 new Primary Schools during 1963-64 out of the Govt. grant under the Third Five Year Plan and established one more school of its own. This brought the total nos. of Primary Schools under the District Council to 447 (i.e., transferred schools 214, Council's own schools 98+107 Venture Primary Schools during 1962-63 plus 28 Primary Schools during 1963-64). There were 689 teachers and 21,457 pupils in total in the above schools.

20 new venture schools were taken up during 1964-65 which brought the total number of schools to 467. A new Assistant Sub-Inspector of Schools was appointed by the District Council in the same year. Present strength of Inspecting Officer is 6 (six) out of which 4 (four) are entertained from the District Council's own fund and the remaining 2 (two) are from Govt. grant. The Sub-Inspector of Schools appointed by the District Council has been redesignated as Education Officer since 1964.

The management of Middle and High Schools is outside the purview of the District Council. But to provide incentive to such schools growing up in different localities of Karbi Anglong, the District Council has always made provisions for funds for giving aids to them. With the initiative of the District Council and co-operation of the people of this Autonomous District the only Girls High Schools at Diphu was set up in 1967 with financial assistance from the Council.

Feeling the acute needs of the facility for higher education with the initiative of the District Council, the people of this Autonomous

District has also decided to start a college at Diphu from the academic year 1964. Apart from giving financial assistance, the District Council has provided to the college with the requisite land in the interest of promotion of higher education in this Autonomous District.

The District Council has not overlooked the necessity of providing for grants for giving incentive to the various cultural organisations aiming at development of tribal culture including folk songs, dances etc. It has also taken steps to publish monographs of different tribes living in this Autonomous District and text in Karbi language for imparting education to the children of this District through their mother tongue at primary level. The Council awards scholarships to meritorious students from its own fund and from 1965-66 has made provisions for scholarships for the prosecutions of technical education.

Development Works : Since its inception, the District Council has placed emphasis on the maintenance and improvement of the already existing roads, construction of village paths, bridges, feeder roads, culverts etc., for increased mobility within the isolated and inaccessible areas ; on providing public wells for drinking water and implementing village water schemes. These works have been undertaken from the Council's own fund as well as with the help of Govt. grants under rural communication, rural water supply, self help grant, self help enterprise grant, local development works schemes and grants-in-aid to District Council for financing their own plans, such as for beautification schemes., expansion of primary education, forest regeneration etc.

In respect of rural communication and rural water supply, the following works were done by the District Council apart from repair and maintenance works.

Year	Rural communication			rural water supply		
	Length of new roads constructed (in miles)	No. of timber bridges constructed.	No. of <i>Pucca</i> culvert constructed.	Amount spent (in Rs.)	No. of ring wells, reservoirs and tubewells constructed.	Amount spent (in Rs.)
1953-54	89.38	1	9	58,934/-	9	18,219/-
1954-55	111.86	4	11	1,22,698/-	40	75,547/-
1955-56	136.72	5	14	1,23,300/-	60	1,21,021/-
1956-57	22.66	14	27	68,392/-	31	55,022/-
1957-58	7.06	9	8	33,840/-	24	57,824/-
1958-59	39.60	5	10	69,555/-	24	8,773/-
1959-60	—	7	33	60,026/-	23	39,900/-
1960-61	51.00	11	24	1,10,626/-	22	57,576/-
1961-62	88.50	5	7	1,03,239/-	76	90,137/-
1962-63	7.50	8	3	26,808/-	46	73,357/-
1963-64	44.00	13	1	85,456/-	35	56,200/-

It may be recalled that since remote past it has been the customary practice of the Karbi people to form small and scattered villages and to practise shifting cultivation on hill slopes and in remote forests. With a few exceptions, they do not form permanent villages. Nine or ten families or even less constitute a village which is again shifted to another place within a few years time. The Council has already noted the great need for reorganising the villages and establishment of permanent villages which is a matter of prime importance in the planning and development and welfare programme for the people. It may be mentioned in this connection that average population per village in Karbi Anglong is only roughly 86 and is probably the lowest in comparison to other autonomous districts. Accordingly, the Council drew up programme to reorganise the villages during 1956. The scheme was to regroup scattered villages into villages consisting at least of 50 or more house-holds for providing facilities such as communication, education, water supply and permanent cultivation. The area of operation of this scheme was divided into four circles and the scheme was initially executed through honorary field Officers designated as Development Officers. Even inspite of natural

aversion of the people to quit their home-steads and to change life-time habits, the scheme worked successfully and till the end of 1962-63, 206 villages in 12 *mauzas* were reorganised. No work thereafter was done on the scheme due to paucity of funds but the Council has again decided to proceed with the remaining work from 1965 and has provided a sum of Rs.50,000/- from its own resources in this years budget (1965-66). The reorganisation scheme since has been executed in full.

One of the most important sources of revenue of this District Council is forests. There is no denial of the fact that the forest wealth of the Council has been gradually decreasing due to extraction by Council and mainly because of the *jhuming*. To compensate this loss, the Council has already taken up reservation and conservation work with right-earnest. The District Council proposed to have reserved forests at 6 (six) places :- (1) Patradisha 18,400 acres, (2) Matipung 7,680 acres (3) Langting 12,592 acres, (4) Langfer 10,830 acres, (5) Langcholiot 9,600 acres, (6) Laharijan 7,680 acres. Besides handing over nearly 500 acres of land to the State Govt's. Soil Conservation Deptt. for afforestation work, the District Council itself has also undertaken regeneration and afforestation work at the following places :-

Name of Place		Area under regeneration works		
		1963-64	1964-65	1965-66
A. Regeneration works.	1. Matipung	4.3 acres	15 acres	20 acres
	2. Silbhetta	3.6 acres	20 acres	15 acres
	3. Patradisha.	—	25 acres	25 acres.
B. Afforestation works.	1. Bagori			30 acres
	2. Laharijan			60 „
	3. Langcholiot.			30 „
	4. Kheroni			30 „
	5. Ouguri			30 „
	6. Tikak			30 „

The Council has already constructed some good buildings for its office, Council's office and for accommodation of Members, Executive Members at Diphu apart from circle and forest offices at out-lying areas. The Council has also constructed some residential quarters for its employees.

Besides the works mentioned above, the Council has constructed several libraries and clubs in rural areas. It has constructed many school buildings and has also improved a number of important *bazars* in the outlying areas.

The District Council further constructed a ten-bedded ward at Diphu and at Boithalangso which were subsequently taken over by Govt.

The District Council has already completed theodolite survey of seven *mauzas* of the District and taken up detailed survey of some *mauzas* for proper classification of land and assessment of Land Revenue.

Receipts and Expenditure of the Karbi Anglong District Council :

Chapter 8 of the Assam Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Council) Rules 1951, provides for the procedure to be followed in the matter of preparation of Annual Financial Statement of the Council ; its presentation to and discussion in the Council and voting of demands for grants. Each year in March, the budget is presented to and discussed in the Council. At the end of each session, a schedule specifying the grants made by the Council is placed in the Council and expenditure is incurred accordingly. The Karbi Anglong District Council, soon after its inception passed a set of rules (The Mikir Hills District Fund Rules). The Funds of the Council are kept in the treasury under a personal ledger-account in the name of the Council. All the financial powers lies with the Executive Committee. The Executive Member in-charge of the Finance Portfolio has the power to sanction expenditure up to the limit of Rs. one thousand. The Secretary of the District Council who is the drawing officer of the District Council draws money by means of cheque from the District Council Fund held in the Diphu Treasury. The accounts of the Council are subject to audit by the Accountant General, Assam and Nagaland etc., Shillong.

The District Council's Fund comprises receipts of revenue from Council's own resources and grants-in-aid etc., received from Govt. year to year. The funds relating to Govt. grants are utilized against the specified scheme approved by Govt. and Fund accumulated from revenue receipts of the Council is utilized in normal administration of the District Council for maintenance of administrative staff including payment of salary, T.A. etc. of the Members of the Council and the surplus from this fund is utilized in developmental works including maintenance etc., of the existing works. The total receipts of the District Council of Karbi

Anglong during 1964-65, was Rs.13,22,272/- of which Rs.11,19,052/- was from the Council's own resources and Rs.2,03,220/- was grants from the Govt. The total expenditure incurred during the same year was Rs. 20,93,733/- of which an amount of Rs.10,03,719/- was incurred on establishment and administration and the rest amount of Rs.10,90,014/- was on development works.

Receipts : As stated in the preceding paragraph, the receipts of the Council may broadly be categorised into two heads i.e., revenue from Council's own sources and grants-in-aid from the Govt.

There has almost been six fold increase in the receipts of the revenue from the District Council's own resources during the last 11 years. From a meagre sum of Rs.1,85,251/- in 1953-54, it rose to a figure of Rs.3,12,695/- in 1955-56 and to Rs.7,50,692/- in 1960-61. It further rose to a high figure of Rs.11,19,052/- in 1964-65. The receipts of the Council come from land revenue, house tax and local rate ; taxes on professions, trades and callings ; taxes on animals ; taxes on vehicles and boats ; taxes on entry of goods into the markets and sales therein ; royalty on timber from Unclassed State Forests and fees and tolls levied on licences from trading by non-tribals and on ferries, cattle pound and fisheries. The Council is also entitled to 60% of the net royalty on elephant hunting, minerals, and minor minerals. Taxes on motor vehicles both under the Act of 1936 and 1939, are collected by the State Govt. and remits the amount, to the Council's Fund after deducting the cost of services rendered. Similar procedure is adopted in case of professioned tax also.

Land Revenue, House Tax and Local Rate : The receipts from the land revenue, house tax and local rate comes about more than 20% of the total receipt of the District Council's own resources. The land in village which are not yet surveyed are assessed to flat rate of 0.56 paise per *bigha* but in cadastrally surveyed villages, the rates varies from 0.31 paise to Rs.2.75 paise per *bigha* according to the classification of land. The hill portion where the shifting cultivation is practised, a sum of Rs.3/- per annum per house for villages with more than 50 houses and Rs.6/- per house for villages with less than 50 houses is realised irrespective of the area under cultivation. The enhanced rate is to discourage the customary practice of the tribal people to form small and scattered villages. The local rate which was until recently 0.08 paise per rupee of land revenue had been raised to 0.25 paise per rupee of land revenue with effect from 1.4.64 and is collected along with land revenue.

The current demand from land revenue is progressively on increase and has almost increased three fold during the last 13 years. From Rs.1,32,742/- in 1953-54, it has increased to Rs.1,79,367/- in 1955-56 and to Rs.2,75,549/- in 1960-61. It has further progressed to a figure of Rs.3,50,707/- in 1964-65. The demand is likely to rise further in the coming years with the levy of enhanced rates of revenue assessment effective from 1.4.66. This progressive increase in current demand is not accompanied by the progressive increase in collection. Every year a huge amount is left as arrear, though a slight improvement in realisation of the arrears is noticeable in recent years. The cumulative arrear has increased from Rs.1,18,504/- in 1953-54 to Rs.11,00,242/- in 1964-65.

The reasons assigned to the huge arrears are said to be the poor economic condition of the people, occasional failure of the crops in the hilly areas due to drought and absence of any scope for pursuing coercive measures on assesseees having no valuable property. As most of the lands in the district are of annual *patta*, the land can not be attached for sale to realise the revenue. This being a newly constituted district, some concessions had to be given at the initial stage in the form of not insisting upon furnishing of security against revenue demand from *Mauzadars* and thus some of them seem to be taking advantage of the same by keeping collection in hand. Now reasonable money or property securities are being demanded from *Mauzadars* before allowing them to start collection. The following table shows the demand, collection, arrear and remission of land revenue, house tax and local rate of Karbi Anglong District Council since 1953-54. (in rupees).

Year	Demand			Collection					Cumulative Arrear.
	Current	Arrear	Total	Current	Arrear	Total	Remission		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1953-54	1,32,742	1,38,744	2,71,486	89,713	63,268	1,52,981	—	1,18,504	
1954-55	1,46,077	1,63,553	3,09,630	97,777	57,707	1,55,484	482	1,54,668	
1955-56	1,79,367	1,37,067	3,16,434	70,782	79,451	1,50,233	1,441	1,99,840	
1956-57	2,07,327	1,99,840	4,07,167	69,477	1,11,139	1,80,916	2,932	2,23,320	
1957-58	2,10,422	2,23,310	4,33,732	66,836	95,225	1,62,061	1,672	2,70,008	
1958-59	2,63,720	2,70,003	5,33,723	54,427	76,347	1,30,774	1,589	4,01,359	
1959-60	2,64,064	4,01,359	6,65,423	52,974	1,22,581	1,75,555	—	4,83,307	
1960-61	2,75,549	4,83,307	7,58,856	64,889	1,37,834	2,02,723	—	5,56,067	
1961-62	3,09,065	5,56,066	8,65,131	45,320	1,09,127	1,54,447	—	7,09,418	
1962-63	3,08,590	7,09,418	10,18,008	40,064	1,36,942	1,77,006	—	8,39,770	
1963-64	3,26,812	8,39,770	11,66,582	53,828	1,77,512	2,31,340	—	9,32,283	
1964-65	3,50,707	9,32,283	12,82,990	42,626	1,36,108	1,78,731	—	11,00,242	

Royalty on timbers from the Unclassed State Forests : Royalty on timber from the Unclassed State Forests is the most important source of income to the District Council. In 1964-65, the revenue from this source came to Rs.8,31,915/-. A steady increase is maintained since 1955-56. From Rs.1,05,046/- in 1955-56, the revenue from this source increased to Rs.5,02,852/- in 1959-60 but fell to Rs.4,55,854/- in 1960-61 and since then a steady upward trend is maintained. In 1964-65, it amounted to a peak figure of Rs.8,31,915/-. These figures are inclusive of share of royalty on elephants received from the State Govt. from time to time.

Timber operation under the District Council was previously done on permit system. To prevent merciless and uneconomic exploitation, the Council has now switched on to the coupe system. The Council formed 41 coupes during 1965-66 of which 36 were sold at a total revenue of Rs.1,41,481.83 paise. The coupes are sold by auction for one year. The Council is concentrating on formation of more coupes systematically well-distributed throughout the Karbi Anglong. There are two leases; Sonapahar lease about 25 sq. miles and Dyungmukh lease about 12 sq. miles. Both the leases are for 3 years. Other forest products are sold on *mahal* basis. The following table shows the demand, collection and arrear of royalty on timber :—

Year	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.	Cumulative Arrear. Rs.
1955-56	1,34,792	1,05,046	29,746
1956-57	3,00,565	2,29,215	71,350
1957-58	5,45,747	3,47,059	1,98,688
1958-59	6,42,324	4,59,275	1,83,049
1959-60	5,07,240	5,02,852	20,401
1960-61	4,54,842	4,55,854	9,778
1961-62	6,05,000	6,08,379	10,578
1962-63	6,57,000	6,11,399	11,199
1963-64	6,80,000	8,87,683	13,701
1964-65	7,58,000	8,31,915	12,482

Taxes on entry of goods into the markets and sales therein : Taxes on entry of goods into the markets and sales therein, as source of revenue from the District Council's own resources, occupies the third position. Receipts from this source, is increasing but not at any uniform rate. From an amount of Rs.19,069/- in 1953-54, the receipt from this source increased to Rs.50,975/- in 1957-58 but fell to Rs.44,437/- in 1958-59. In 1959-60, it amounted to Rs.61,316/-. It again declined to Rs.41,072/- in 1960-61 but rose to a peak mark of Rs.71,722/- in 1963-64. During the year 1964-65, receipts from this source again declined to Rs. 40,918/-. Unsatisfactory collection of revenue led to the accumulation of bulk arrears during the last 10 years. From a meagre amount of Rs. 760/- in 1954-55, the cumulative arrear has amounted to Rs.83,254/- in 1964-65.

There are 27 *bazars* in the Karbi Anglong under control of the District Council of Karbi Anglong. The *bazars* are leased by auction to the highest bidder called *Bazar Mahaldars* for a term of one year. These *Mahaldars* collect taxes as per rates prescribed by the District Council from the shopkeepers who brings goods into the markets for sale therein. The table below shows the demand, collection, and arrears of taxes on goods into the markets and sales therein. Correct picture of arrear cannot be obtained due to lack of irregular assessment in *bazars*.

Tear	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.	Arrear Rs.
1	2	3	4
1953-54	19,069	19,069	..
1954-55	22,650	21,890	760
1955-56	31,655	25,819	5,836
1956-57	43,246	36,879	6,367
1957-58	57,708	50,975	6,733
1958-59	73,408	44,437	28,971
1959-60	91,512	61,316	30,196
1960-61	81,751	41,072	40,679
1961-62	96,994	46,734	50,260

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1962-63	1,23,170	46,346	76,824
1963-64	1,42,004	71,722	69,282
1964-65	1,24,172	40,918	83,254
1965-66	1,68,254	N.A.	N.A.

Taxes on trades, callings and professions : Taxes on trades include licence fees etc., levied by the District Council on non-tribal traders under the Mikir Hills District (Trading By Non-Tribals) Regulation, 1953. The revenue from this source is small. From Rs.1,145/- in 1953-54, the receipts under this head increased to Rs.25,549/- in 1964-65 without any arrears. The table shows the demand and collection of taxes on trades :—

Year	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.	Year	Demand Rs.	Collection (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1953-54	1,145	1,145	1960-61	14,577	14,577
1954-55	3,036	3,036	1961-62	14,491	14,491
1955-56	5,837	5,837	1962-63	16,018	16,018
1956-57	7,396	7,396	1963-64	25,529	25,529
1957-58	18,453	18,453	1964-65	25,549	25,549
1958-59	18,239	18,239	1965-66	17,000	N.A.
1959-60	16,305	16,305	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Taxes on vehicles : Taxes on vehicles mainly comprises the taxes levied by the District Council on carts, cycles and boats under the Mikir Hills (Cart, Cycle And Boat) Taxation Act, 1954. Besides, the District Council is also entitled to a share of the 60% of the taxes on motor vehicles collected by the State Govt. The revenue from this is fluctuating from year to year and the highest receipt from this source was Rs.20,324/- in 1958-59. The rates of taxes at present, levied by the District Council under the above mentioned Act are as follows :-

(a) Private cart	Rs. 4.00
(b) Business cart	Rs. 12.00
(c) Cycle	Rs. 2.00
(d) Boat	(i) Rs. 6.00 (upto 10 mds. capacity)
	(ii) Rs. 10.00 (upto 50 mds. capacity)
	(iii) Rs. 20.00 (above 50 mds. capacity)

The following table shows demand and collection of vehicle taxes in Karbi Anglong upto 1964-65 :—

Year	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.	Year	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1953-54	—	—	1959-60	2,726	2,726
1954-55	96	96	1960-61	6,988	6,988
1955-56	1,151	1,151	1961-62	1,548	1,548
1956-57	1,987	1,987	1962-63	3,354	3,354
1957-58	9,413	9,413	1963-64	1,396	1,396
1958-59	20,324	20,324	1964-65	281	281

Taxes on ferries : A number of ferries are under the control of Karbi Anglong District Council. These ferries are auctioned by open bid for a term of one year to the highest bidder called *mahaldars*. These *mahaldars* collect taxes from passengers and on goods carried by boats across the river as per rates prescribed by the District Council. The revenue from this source is also fluctuating from year to year. In 1964-65, the collection from this source was Rs.6,455/-. The highest amount collected from this source was Rs.12,237/- in 1956-57. The rates of taxes on passengers and goods carried by boats are prescribed by the District Council of Karbi Anglong. The following table shows the demand, collection and cumulative arrears of taxes.

Year	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.	Cumulative arrears Rs.	Year	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.	Cumulative arrears Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1953-54	3,205	1,639	1,566	1956-57	14,270	12,237	4,034
1954-55	3,565	3,365	1,766	1957-58	19,590	8,071	15,553
1955-56	11,095	10,860	2,001	1958-59	C. 3,135 A.15,553	3,807	14,882
					T.18,688		

1959-60	C. 2,300 A.14,881 T.37,881	5,121	12,060	1960-61	C. 3,200 A.12,060 T.15,260	9,145	6,115
1961-62	C.12,600 A. 6,115 T.18,715	6,183	12,532	1962-63	C. 6,000 A.12,532 T.18,532	8,875	9,657
1963-64	C.10,000 A. 9,657 T.19,657	11,433	8,224	1964-65	C.10,000 A.8,224 T.18,224	6,455	7,769

Taxes on cattle pounds : The District Council of Karbi Anglong is maintaining a number of cattle pounds for the control of the astray cattle. Like ferries and bazars, the cattle pounds are auctioned by open bid for a term of one year to the highest bidder who collects taxes from the owners whose cattle found place in cattle pounds. The revenue from this source was Rs.3,318/- in 1964-65. The following table shows the receipts from the cattle pounds since 1953-54 :—

Year	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.	Year	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1953-54	558	558	1959-60	2,095	2,095
1954-55	470	470	1960-61	2,762	2,762
1955-56	432	432	1961-62	2,441	2,441
1956-57	761	761	1962-63	3,669	3,669
1957-58	976	976	1963-64	3,949	3,949
1958-59	1,401	1,401	1964-65	3,318	3,318

Grazing Taxes : Under the Mikir Hills Grazing Regulation, 1953, taxes are levied on animals kept other than for domestic purposes. The rates of taxes are—buffaloe Rs 6/-, cow Rs. 4/- and elephant Rs. 15/- per head per annum. The revenue from grazing tax has increased from Rs. 8,959/- in 1953-54 to Rs.21,421/- in 1964-65. The highest amount collected was Rs. 24,844/- in 1961-62. The collection of grazing tax is not satisfactory and the cumulative arrear is showing an upward trend. In 1964-65, the cumulative arrear amounted to Rs.40,205/- from that of Rs.1,256/- in 1953-54. The following table shows the receipts from the grazing tax :—

Year	Demand			Collection			Remi- ssion	Cumu- lative arrear.
	Current Rs.	Arrear Rs.	Total Rs.	Current Rs.	Arrear Rs.	Total Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1953-54	11,114	—	11,114	8,959	—	8,959	—	1,256
1954-55	14,054	1,256	16,312	11,539	1,256	12,795	—	2,515
1955-56	13,070	2,515	13,585	11,146	2,171	13,317	345	1,924
1956-57	15,610	1,924	17,534	4,382	250	4,632	—	12,902
1957-58	13,443	12,902	25,345	5,300	8,492	13,792	—	12,553
1958-59	14,769	12,553	27,322	2,500	4,135	6,635	12	20,675
1959-60	14,516	20,676	35,192	3,869	9,999	13,868	—	21,325
1960-61	15,459	21,325	36,784	—	7,752	7,752	61	28,971
1961-62	17,667	28,971	46,638	5,490	18,354	24,844	525	19,843
1962-63	18,029	22,268	40,297	300	6,086	6,386	—	33,911
1963-64	18,577	33,911	22,488	1,903	13,514	15,417	—	37,071
1964-65	24,554	37,071	61,625	2,758	18,663	21,421	—	40,205

Stamps : The collection from the sale of District Council stamps is also increasing gradually and amounted to Rs.10,464/- in 1964-65. The following table shows the receipts from the sale of stamps by the Karbi Anglong District Council :—

(In Rupees)

Year	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.	Year	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.
1956-57	4,780	4,780	1961-62	8,150	8,150
1957-58	5,467	5,467	1962-63	9,113	9,113
1958-59	6,821	6,821	1963-64	12,771	12,771
1959-60	6,502	6,502	1964-65	10,464	10,464
1960-61	9,819	9,819			

Grants-in-Aid from State Govt. : Grants from the State Govt. is another important source of District Council's revenue. These grants may be broadly divided into three categories (i) grants for the normal administration (ii) grants for primary education and (iii) grants for other development works. Grants for the normal administration is not the recurring feature ; only in the year of 1953-54, an amount of Rs.1,25,000/- was received by the District Council of Karbi Anglong. The grants for primary education and other development works are sanctioned annually against the specified schemes. Grants under these two heads are showing an upward trend since 1953-54. Grants for primary education has increased substantially since 1961-62 with the transfer of Primary Schools and Junior Basic Schools from Govt. to the District Council. Below table shows the grants and loans received by the District Council of Karbi Anglong since 1953-54.

Year	GRANTS FOR					
	Normal adminis- tration Rs.	Primary education Rs.	Other de- velopment works Rs.	Total Rs.	Loan re- ceived Rs.	Loan re- paid. Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1953-54	1,25,000	7,330	37,100	1,69,430	60,000	—
1954-55	—	10,840	1,01,470	1,12,297	—	15,000
1955-56	—	13,840	2,32,540	2,46,380	50,000	—
1956-57	—	13,800	1,60,455	1,74,255	50,000	—
1957-58	—	7,189	1,79,923	1,87,112	1,97,753	—
1958-59	—	29,250	2,04,437	2,33,687	13,000	16,504
1959-60	—	20,000	1,68,267	1,88,267	—	—
1960-61	—	79,850	2,43,112	3,22,962	—	—
1961-62	—	2,15,177	1,69,312	3,84,489	—	—
1962-63	—	5,22,967	3,02,179	8,25,146	—	—
1963-64	—	5,49,067	2,44,190	7,93,257	—	—
1964-65	—	4,11,970	2,91,250	7,03,220	—	—
1965-66	—	9,94,448	2,77,800	1,27,248	—	—

Expenditure : The total expenditure of the District Council of Karbi Anglong was Rs.20,93,724/- in 1964-65. This is over seven times what it was in 1953-54. The main heads of expenditure of the District Council may be divided into four viz., establishment, education, development works and all other expenditures (including buildings etc.). The details of expenditure under these heads prior to 1960-61 is not available and hence the description of expenditure given below under different heads relates to the later years.

Establishment : The expenditure under establishment includes the pay etc., of officers and staff including District Council Members but excluding education. The expenditure under this head is maintaining an upward trend since 1960-61. From Rs.3,81,908/- in 1960-61, it had increased to Rs.3,94,778/- in 1962-63 and to Rs.4,52,641/- in 1963-64. It further rose to Rs.5,17,560/- in 1964-65. The steep rise in expenditure in the last two years was mainly accounted to the revision of pay etc., of the staff.

Education : There had been a spurt increase in expenditure on education during 1960-65. From Rs.1,11,953/- in 1960-61, the expenditure on education had increased to Rs.4,42,034/- in 1962-63 and again to Rs.7,82,293/- in 1964-65.

Development Works : Development works undertaken by the District Council of Karbi Anglong mainly comprises rural communication, rural water supply, beautification of town, local development works, improvement of bazar etc. These development works are undertaken by the District Council from its own funds as well as from the grants received from State Govt. against specific schemes. The amount of expenditure on development works incurred by the District Council from its own funds since 1960-61 is gradually on decline except a slight rise in 1964-65 and as regards the amount of expenditure from Govt. grants no uniform pattern is visualised. The total amount of expenditure on development works from both the sources was Rs.4,09,219/- in 1960-61, and it rose to Rs.4,43,294/- in 1964-65 with certain fluctuations during the years of 1961 to 1963.

Other Expenditures : This head mainly comprises expenditure incurred on buildings etc., and any other expenditure not included in the above described heads. The District Council since its establishment has constructed a good number of buildings like District Council Office, Members Hostel, Executive Member's residences and residential quarters for its employees etc. The amount of expenditure incurred under this head was Rs.3,50,577/- during 1964-65. The following table shows the details of expenditure of Karbi Anglong District Council :—

Statement showing the details of expenditure of District Council of Karbi Anglong since 1960-61 to 1964-65.

Year	Expenditure on establishment, i.e., pay etc., of officers and staff including District Council Members but excluding education.	Education	Development works			All other expenditure, i.e., building & others not included in other cols.	Grand total
			Head of Development work.	From Council's own resources	From Govt. grants.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1960-61	3,81,908.00	1,11,953.00	1. Rural communications.	1,59,311.00	25,789.00	2,80,047.00	11,83,127.00
			2. Rural water supply.	7,029.00	55,909.00		
			3. Self help.	15,964.00	47,892.00		
			4. Beautification of towns.	7,819.00	23,456.00		
			5. Local development works.	Nil	52,941.00		
			6. Expansion of primary education.	3,277.00	9,832.00		
			Total . . .	1,93,400.00	2,1,5,819.00		

Statement showing the details of expenditure of District Council of Karbi Anglong since 1960-61 to 1964-65

Year	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1961-62	3,90,297.00	2,85,631.00	1. Rural communication.	1,30,926.00	41,072.00	1,32,482.00	10,67,485.00	
			2. Rural water supply.	2,364.00	22,828.00			
			3. Self help	15,471.00	46,414.00			
			Total	1,48,761.00	1,10,314.00			
1962-63	3,94,778.00	4,42,034.00	1. Rural Communication.	1,11,776.00	70,873.00	1,69,899.00	14,59,275.00	
			2. Rural water supply.	3,524.00	55,362.00			
			3. Self help.	19,956.00	59,867.00			
			4. Self help enterprise.	—	8,815.00			
			5. Beautification of town.	7,828.00	23,484.00			
			6. Local development works.	—	37,634.00			
			7. Expansion of primary education.	11,470.00	34,410.00			
			8. Improvement of bazars.	5,556.00	2,009.00			
			Total	1,60,110.00	2,92,454.00			

Statement showing the details of expenditure of District Council of Karbi Anglong since 1960-61 to 1964-65

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1963-64	4,52,641.00	6,49,558.00							
1. Rural communi- cation.					66,965.00	67,407.00	2,18,803.00	16,58,760.00	
2. Rural water supply.					2,535.00	43,711.00			
3. Self help.					2,817.00	8,450.00			
4. Self help enterprise.					—	1,770.00			
5. Town beautification					8,139.00	24,416.00			
6. Local development works.					—	32,869.00			
7. Regeneration of forest.					9,074.00	27,223.00			
8. Expansion of pri- mary education.					10,596.00	31,786.00			
Total					1,00,126.00	2,37,632.00			
1964-65	5,17,560.00	7,82,293.00							
1. Rural communi- cation.					1,40,932.00	1,04,285.00	3,50,577.00	20,93,724.00	
2. Rural water supply.					10,858.00	32,571.00			
3. Self help enterprise.					—	12,702.00			
4. Town beautification.					5,676.00	17,028.00			
5. Regeneration of forest.					15,141.00	45,424.00			
6. Expansion of pri- mary education.					14,494.00	43,483.00			
7. Improvement of bazars.					700.00	—			
Total					1,87,801.00	2,55,493.00			

North Cachar Hills District Council : It came into being on 29th April 1952. It has a jurisdiction over an area of 4,890 sq. kilo- metre with a population of 51,319. It consists of 16 members out of which 12 are elected by adult franchise and rest are nominated by the Governor. This composition determined in 1951 is still continuing. The first election to the District Council was held along with the First General Elections in the country in 1952 and since then it is being held along with the General Elections of the Country.

In the First General Elections there was one political party in the field, called the Progressive People's Party which set up candidates for the most of the seats and won the elections. There were independent candi- dates in several constituencies but all of them lost. The party position after the 1st Elections and nomination was: Progressive People's Party and Independents supporting the Progressive People's Party 15, and 1 Indepen- dent member in opposition. Later on 2 members of Progressive People' Party defected and joined the opposition. This position continued till sometimes in 1953 when one of the members of opposition resigned to accept a judicial post in the Council. This member, being nominated one, another man was nominated in his place, who sided with the ruling Party, and this position continued till the next election. In the elections of 1957, there were two political parties in the field, the ruling Progressive People's Party and the North Cachar Hills People's Welfare Union which had been formed by the opposition members. There were straight con- tests between the two parties in all the 12 constituencies. The People's Welfare Party won 9 of the 12 seats, the ruling party being able to retain only 3 seats. Of the 4 nominated members, one joined the People's Welfare Union and the three joined the other party. The People's Wel- fare Union, thus, formed the Executive Committee. But in January 1961, the Executive Committee resigned, facing a no-confidence motion and according to Assam Autonomous District (Constitution of District Councils) Rules 1951, a care taker Committee was appointed by the Governor from amongst the members of the Congress Party (the Progressive People's Party merged with the Indian National Congress Party soon after 1957 elections). The care-taker Committee continued till the next elections, the party position during this period being Congress 9 and Welfare Union 7. In the elections in 1962, there was again a straight contest between the two parties and the result was a tie, each party capturing 6 seats. All the nominated members, however, joined the Congress Party and thus the Congress Party formed the Executive Committee and this position is still continuing.

Administrative set up : The District Council administration consist of three wings, namely (i) the Legislature (ii) the Executive Committee and (iii) the Judiciary. The District Council in-session functions as Legislature. The Chairman of the District Council presides over the meetings of the Council and occupies a position analogous to that of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. He has no executive function. All the executive functions of the District Council are vested in the Executive Committee. The District Council Court forms the judiciary which is independent of the Executive.

The Chairman of the District Council has his own office with the Secretary to the District Council to assist him. The Executive Committee has its office which is divided into different departments and branches for the convenience of administration. The staff including the judges of the District Council courts are appointed by the Executive Committee, the general principle, guiding appointment being that, all other things being equal, local tribal candidates are to be given preferences in matters of appointment.

Legislative Department : All matters relating to summoning of the Session of the District Council, questions, resolutions, motions, drafting of bills etc., Pay and T.A. Bills of the members, Chairman, Deputy Chairman and all other matters relating to sessions of the District Council and Sub-Committees formed by it including preparation of proceedings and circulation of all such papers to the Members are dealt with in the Department.

Judiciary Department : The judiciary under the District Council of North Cachar Hills consists of two courts i.e., District Council Court and the Sub-ordinate District Council court. There is a Judge for the District Council and a Sub-ordinate Judge for the Sub-ordinate District Council Court. The District Council Court exercises its judicial functions as an appellate authority against the orders and decisions of the Sub-ordinate District Council Court. The Sub-ordinate District Council Court exercises its powers both in its original jurisdiction as well as an appellate authority for hearing appeals against the decision of the village council.

Executive Department : The Executive Department of the District Council, North Cachar Hills, may be sub-divided into the five following branches, and Secretary to the Executive Committee is the head of the Executive Department.

General Administration Branch : The branch deals with such subjects as agriculture, public health and sanitation, villages and town committees and councils and markets etc.

Revenue Branch : All matters relating to land and revenue are dealt by this branch. It is responsible for assessment of land revenue and house-tax and collection of the same. The allotment of land for various purposes and settlement of the same with *raiya*s are also done by this branch. Besides these regular revenue works, the assesment and collection of grazing tax and sale of fisheries and collection of revenue therefrom and similar other subjects are dealt with in this branch.

Miscellaneous enquiries, collection of taxes animals etc., are also done through *Mauzadars* and *Gaonburas* under this branch. They are also recognised as village chief authorities under the North Cachar Hills District (Administration Of Justice) Rules 1953 and are functioning as village courts.

The Secretary to the Executive Committee is the Revenue Officer of the District Council and exercises such powers as are vested in the Deputy Commissioner under Assam Land and Revenue Regulation Act 1886. Appeal against the order of the Revenue Officer lies with the Executive Member in-charge of the Land Revenue Portfolio.

Forest Branch : The administration of Forests (Unclassed State Forests) in North Cachar Hills is vested with the District Council and this Branch looks after the management of Unclassed State Forests. All matters relating to assessment and collection of royalties on various forest produce together with settlement of forest *mahals* are made by this branch.

Royalty on forest produce is levied as per schedule prescribed for the purpose, and in addition, a monopoly fee is charged upto the maximum of 50% of the royalty. This fee varies according to the remoteness and inaccessibility of the working area. Timber and firewood are exploited under the system of trade permits and occasionally a firewood coupe is also formed and sold by calling tenders. *Mahals* have been formed for the working of minor forest produce. Exclusive right for collection of such forest produce from *mahals* is sold by calling tenders. Out side the *mahals* exploitation of such forest produce is done on permit system.

The administration of the minor minerals in the Autonomous District of North Cachar Hills is a State subject and the District Council

of North Cachar Hills is entitled to get a share of 60% of the revenue accrued therefrom. The District Council is authorised by the State Govt. to collect revenue on minor minerals within its jurisdiction. The revenue is shared by the District Council and State Govt. on the basis of 60:40. Administration of Reserved Forests have also been transferred to the District Council in recent years,

Public Worked Branch : The branch is under the charge of an Engineer, who supervises the execution of all works, construction as well as repairs i.e., works relating to rural communication, rural water supply, self-help schemes, construction and maintenance of District Council's offices and buildings. Engineer is assisted by an Assistant Engineer and 4 overseers. Besides, there are a number of sub-overseers and *Moharrirs* for better execution and supervision of works.

Education Branch : Education at the primary level within the Autonomous District is under the control and management of the District Council. The Council has 14 L.P. Schools of its own which it manages from its own fund and is shouldering the responsibility of the management and control of 214 Govt. L.P. Schools and 6 Junior Basic Schools transferred from Govt. with effect from 1.4.64. To supervise the workings and teaching of these schools, there is a supervisory staff consisting of Sub-Inspectors of Schools and Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools. To advise the District Council, there is a District Board of Primary Education consisting of 9 members. Executive Member in-charge of Education Portfolio is the chairman and Deputy Inspector of Schools, Haflong who is *ex-officio* Secretary of the Board.

Financial Affairs Branch : This branch consists of two sub-branches : (i) Budgets and accounts and (ii) Taxes, the former dealing with financial matters like the preparation of budgets, including preparation and sanction of various schemes of works and maintenance of accounts and cash ; the latter is entrusted with the administration of the North Cachar Hills District (Trading By Non-Tribals) Regulation 1954. The North Cachar Hills District (Taxes) Regulation 1953 and the North Cachar Hills District (Taxes On Entry Of Goods Into The Markets) Regulation 1959. It issues licenses to non-tribal traders under the North Cachar Hills District (Trading By Non-Tribals) Regulation 1954 on payment of prescribed fees and levies—taxes on professions, trades, callings and employment under the North Cachar Hills District (Taxes) Regulation 1953. The tax is levied on an annual gross income of a person or persons as per schedule.

Collection of entry taxes under the North Cachar Hills District (Taxes On Entry Of Goods Into The Markets) Regulation 1959 are done through this branch. For this purpose whole of the North Cachar Hills is divided into seven regions for collection purposes. At each region there is agent called "Permit Issuing Agent" who levies taxes through permits as per schedule rates on the scheduled goods.

The Secretary to the District Council is in over-all charge of these branches mentioned above. He is also the Secretary to the Executive Committee as well as the Secretary for Legislature. Besides general supervision he implements the decision of the Executive Committee and the Council and on financial sides he exercises control over the Council Fund as empowered by the Fund Rules. There is an Assistant Secretary to the Executive Committee to assist the Secretary in discharging his multifarious activities.

Executive Committee : According to Rule 28 and 29 of the Assam Autonomous District (Constitution of the District Councils) Rules 1951, all the executive functions of the District Councils are vested in the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee in case of North Cachar Hills is composed of the Chief Executive Member at the head and two other Executive Members. The subject falling under the purview of the District Council are allotted to the three members of the Executive Committee.

The emoluments of the members of the Executive Committee, Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Members of the District Council (M.D.C.) at present are as follows :-

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Chief Executive Member | (1) Salary Rs.500/- per month. |
| | (2) Car maintenance allowance Rs.50 p. m. |
| | (3) House rent in-lieu of free residence Rs.150/- P.M. |
| 2. Executive Member | (1) Salary Rs.400/- per month. |
| | (2) Car maintenance allowance Rs.50/- p. m. |
| | (3) House rent in-lieu of free residence Rs.150/- p. m. |
| 3. Chairman | (1) Salary Rs.400/- p. m. |
| | (2) House rent in-lieu of free residence Rs.150/- p. m. |
| 4. Deputy Chairman : | Salary of Rs.200/- p. m. |
| 5. Members of District Council. | Salary of Rs.125/- p. m. |

ACTIVITIES OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1. LEGISLATIVE :

The District Council of North Cachar Hills has enacted a number of Acts, Rules, and Regulations since its inception in accordance with the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. A list of the important Acts, Rules and Regulations has been given in Chapter X.

Procedure of making or amending laws, regulations and rules in respect of matters falling within the purview of the District Council as specified in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India are the same as described earlier.

Education : Since its inception, the Council has set up 14 L.P. Schools out of its own resources and expenditure on these schools in 1964-65 was Rs.65,000/-. Besides these L.P. Schools, the Council has assisted in setting up and managing Middle and High Schools and one Arts College at Haflong. The Council took over management of 220 Govt. L.P. Schools on 1.4.64. The total expenditure on these schools in 1964-65 was Rs.2,85,000/- which was received as grants-in-aid from the State Govt.

It is the policy of Council to impart education in the primary stage in child's own mother tongue but great difficulties have been experienced in this respect for want of text books and teachers in the tribal languages. At present the medium of instructions in these schools is either Bengali, English, Assamese or Hindi.

Development works : Ever since the District Council came into being, it engaged itself in development activities within the limits of its financial resources. Apart from the activities in the field of education, the Council has engaged itself in development activities, such as improvements of rural communication, rural water supply, markets and minor irrigation etc., An indication of the Council activities will be available from the following figures which relate to the period from 1958-59 to 1964-65. During this period, the Council has constructed 205 water tanks and wells, 916 miles of foot paths, 50 miles of jeepable roads, 42 small irrigation schemes and 9 play grounds in rural areas. Besides, the Council has improved five markets under its control by providing better stalls, better drainage and conservancy and better water supply. The Council has also helped the Haflong Town Committee in providing better civic amenities in the Town.

Administration of Justice : Soon after its inception the District Council passed a set of rules called the North Cachar Hills District (Administration of Justice) Rules, 1953, providing for setting up of three classes of courts namely, the Village Court, District Council Court and Subordinate District Council Court. The District Council Court and one Subordinate District Council Court are already functioning at Haflong with single Judicial Officer in each court. No village court has yet been set up and the chief village authorities such as *Mauzadar* and *Gaonburas* are authorised to function as Village Courts.

Village Court : These courts are empowered to try cases of petty nature such as simple affray and affront and petty theft etc., and are empowered to impose fine up to Rs.50/-. Appeals from these courts lie to the Subordinate District Council Court.

Subordinate District Council Court : The court consists of a single Judicial Officer who has been given the powers of a Magistrate First Class under the Criminal Procedure Code. The court hears appeals from the Village Courts and has original jurisdiction over all cases and suits triable by the District Council Courts under the Administration of Justice Rules.

District Council Court : The court consists of a single Judicial Officer though according to Rules, the court may consist of a single or a bench of more than one Judicial Officer. This is an appellate court. Appeals from this court lie to the High Court.

Receipt and Expenditure of the District Council of North Cachar Hills : Chapter 8 of the Assam Autonomous District (Constitution of District Council) Rules 1951, provides for the procedure to be followed in preparation of Annual Financial Statement of the Council ; its preparation to and discussion in the Council and voting of demands for grants. Each year in March, the Budget is presented to and discussed in the Council. At the end of each session, a schedule specifying the grants made by the Council is placed in the Council and expenditure are incurred accordingly. The North Cachar Hills District Fund Rules provides for receipt, custody and withdrawal of Council money and in accordance with the provision of these rules, the funds of the Council are kept in the treasury under a personal ledger account in the name of the Council. All the financial powers are vested with the Executive Committee. The Executive

Member in-charge of the Finance Portfolio has the power to sanction expenditure up to the limit of rupees one thousand. The Secretary of the District Council who is the drawing and disbursing officer of the District Council draws money by means of cheque from the District Council Fund held in Haflong Treasury. The accounts of the Council are subject to Audit by the Accountant General, Assam and Nagaland, Shillong.

The District Council's Fund comprises receipts of revenue from Council's own resources and grants-in-aid etc., received from Govt. year to year. The funds relating to Govt. grants are utilized against the specified schemes approved by Govt. and funds accumulated from revenue receipt of the Council, is utilized on normal administrative staff including the payment of salary, T.A. etc., of the Members and the surplus from this is utilized in developmental works including maintenance etc., of the existing works. The total receipts of the District Council of North Cachar Hills during 1964-65 was Rs.11,37,967/- of which Rs.5,63,896/- was from the Council's own resources and Rs.5,74,071/- was grants from the Govt. The total expenditure incurred during the same year was Rs.11,61,550/- of which an amount of Rs.3,22,491/- was incurred on establishment and administration and the rest of the amount of Rs.8,39,059/- was on development works.

RECEIPTS : As stated in the preceding paragraphs, the receipts of the Council may be categorised in the two heads viz., (A) revenue from Council's own resources and (B) grants-in-aid from the Govt. The receipts from both the sources are gradually on increase.

The revenue receipt of the District Council from its own resources was Rs.2,22,705/- in 1959-60 and rose to Rs.5,63,896/- in 1964-65. The receipts of the Council's own resources comprises revenue from land revenue and house tax ; taxes on professions, trades and callings ; taxes on vehicles and boats ; taxes on entry of goods into the markets and sales therein ; royalty on timber and fees and tolls levied on licences for trading by non-tribals and on fisheries and cattle. The Council is also entitled to 60% of the net royalty from elephant hunting, minerals and minor minerals. Taxes on motor vehicles both under the Act of 1936 and 1939 are collected by the State Government and remits the amount to the Council Fund after deducting the cost of the services rendered. Following are the receipts since 1959-60 to 1964 to 1965 :—

Year	District Council's own resources.	Grants	Total receipts	Loans and Advances.
1	2	3	4	5
1959-60	2,22,705	1,15,374	3,38,079	1,47,000
1960-61	2,73,587	1,16,056	3,89,643	3,00,00
1961-62	3,14,321	92,807	4,07,128	Nil
1962-63	3,96,310	1,05,294	5,01,604	Nil
1963-64	4,68,038	2,19,390	6,77,478	Nil
1964-65	5,63,896	5,74,071	11,37,967	Nil

Land Revenue : Unlike the District Council of Karbi Anglong the revenue receipts of the District Council of North Cachar Hills from land revenue, is very small, amounting to Rs.21,554/- in 1959-60 and the same rose to Rs. 31,464/- in 1964-65. The receipts under the land revenue, comprises receipts from ordinary revenue, rent etc., on fisheries, house tax and land registration and mutation fees etc.

Most of the areas in the North Cachar Hills are non—cadastral. Only the plain portions in the Jatinga, Mahur and Langting Valley has been cadastrally surveyed and brought under revenue assessment. The area under settlement and assessed to land revenue was only 5,269.52 acres in 1964-65. In non-cadastral areas house-tax at the rate of Rs.3/- per annum in villages having 10 or more houses and Rs.6/- in villages less than 10 houses is levied. The table below shows the land revenue receipts under different sub-heads since 1959-60 to 1964-65 of the North Cachar Hills District Council :—

(In rupees)						
Sub-head	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
Ordinary revenue.	4,158	5,942	6,781	7,284	9,430	8,481
Rent etc., on fisheries.	3,496	3,635	3,453	4,090	5,197	4,340
House tax.	13,900	13,156	15,402	18,763	19,307	18,643
Land registration, mutation fees.	—	525	—	—	—	—
Total	21,554	23,258	25,636	30,137	33,934	31,464

Forests : The revenue from the Unclassed State Forests as a source of income to the District Council of North Cachar Hills occupied the first position and is showing an upward trend since 1959-60. From Rs.1,09,444/- it has increased to Rs.1,62,597/- in 1961-62 and to Rs.3,38,460/- in 1964-65. The revenue under this head comprises royalties from timber and other forest products of the Unclassed State Forests, share of royalty from the elephant hunting, and minerals and amount of compensation realised for forest offences. Below table shows the forest revenue of the North Cachar Hills District Council under different sub-heads between from 1959-60 to 1964-65 :—

Sub-head	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Timbers.	81,713	83,083	1,07,780	1,27,042	1,42,070	1,84,069
Firewood & charcoal.	964	2,211	3,303	2,898	31,669	1,645
Bamboos.	9,999	4,884	24,149	22,743	43,472	59,213
Elephants.	—	—	127	119	5	16,325
Other minor forest produce.	10,997	13,903	11,810	18,439	10,449	13,895
Minor minerals.	3,097	5,388	6,295	6,428	17,374	16,355
Compensation of forest offences.	419	363	806	67	415	8,635
Tender fees etc.	122	2,037	4,960	17,846	16,338	12,558
Sales Tax.	2,233	591	3,566	3,962	4,673	5,764
Total	1,09,544	1,14,460	1,62,597	1,99,544	2,66,465	3,38,460

Taxes on entry of goods into the markets and sales therein : Taxes on entry of goods into the markets and sales therein, as a source of revenue from the District Council's own resources, occupy the third position. Receipts from this source is maintaining a gradual upward trend. From Rs.71,739/- in 1959-60, it rose to Rs.86,931/- in 1961-62 and to Rs.1,37,004/- in 1964-65.

There are 6 *bazars* in North Cachar Hills under the control of the District Council North Cachar Hills. Each *bazar* is sold by auction to the Highest bidder called *Bazar Mahaldars* for a term of one year. *Mahaldars* collect taxes as per rates prescribed by the District Council from the shopkeepers who bring goods into the markets for sales therein. The following table shows the collection of taxes on entry of goods into the markets and sales therein :—

Heads	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Taxes on entry of goods into markets.	71,739	81,601	86,931	1,03,388	1,19,659	1,37,004

Market Taxes : Receipts under the head Market Taxes, comprises receipts from rent on shop sites, latrine tax, licence fees, water tax and sale proceeds. The revenue under this head since last two years is declining. From an amount of Rs.11,578 in 1959-60, it rose to Rs.19,302 in 1961-62. In the next year, it rose to its peak mark of Rs.32,406/- and since then, it began to decline and amounted to Rs.16,215 - in 1964-65. Below table shows the receipts under this head since 1959-60. :—

Sub-head	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sale proceeds.	4,552	5,973	7,276	12,427	12,082	8,608
Rent on Shop sites.	4,425	9,641	8,630	15,293	8,721	4,221
Latrine tax.	366	736	833	1,739	1,017	436
Licence fee.	2,172	3,312	2,434	2,624	2,792	2,869
Water tax.	63	90	129	323	151	81
Total	11,578	19,752	19,302	32,406	24,763	16,215

Taxes on animals, vehicles and boats : The North Cachar Hills District (Taxes) Regulation 1953, provides for levy and collection of taxes on animals and boats. Taxes at the rate of Rs.3/- per buffalo and Rs.1/- per cattle is realised from the professional graziers. Any boat belonging to non-tribal is liable to a tax of Rs.2/- per trip if made from the outside district to any station inside the district but empty boats are exempted. Boats belonging to tribals are not required to pay tax but they are to be registered on payment of the registration fee of Rs.4/- annually. Taxes on vehicles are being collected by the State Government at the rates equivalent to those in other parts of the State and the entire amount of collection after deducting the cost of services rendered are remitted to the District Council.

The receipts under this head is very small and comes to about Rs.4,546/- in 1964-65. This amount is only from taxes on animals. Between 1959-60 to 1964-65, no amount under the head taxes on vehicles was received by the District Council. During the same period receipts from the taxes on boats was also nil except an amount of Rupees 200/- each in 1960-61 and 1961-62. The table below shows the revenue receipts of the District Council, North Cachar Hills, from the taxes on animals, boats and vehicles from 1959 to 1964-65 :—

Sub-head	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
Taxes on animals.	3,887	5,142	4,151	3,796	5,046	4,546
Taxes on vehicles.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boats.	—	200	200	—	—	—
Total	3,887	5,342	4,351	3,796	5,046	4,546

Taxes on professions, trades,, callings & employment and tolls on persons : Revenue receipts from this source though small is showing an upward trend accompanied by little fluctuations. The total collection from both the sources was Rs.5,969/- in 1959-60 and rose to Rs.8,333/- in 1961-62. In 1964-65, it amounted to only Rs.8,286/-. Below table shows the revenue from this source from 1959 to 1964-65 :—

Sub-heads	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
1. Taxes on professions trades, callings and employment.	2,042	2,714	2,486	3,060	2,786	2,916
2. Tolls on persons.	3,927	4,404	5,847	4,859	4,807	5,370
Total	5,969	7,118	8,333	7,919	7,593	8,286

Miscellaneous Receipts : Miscellaneous receipts of the District Council from different heads since 1959-60 were as follows :—

Sub-heads 1	1959-60 2	1960-61 3	1961-62 4	1962-63 5	1963-64 6	1964-65 7
Rent or taxes.	705	280	183	—	662	120
Receipts on account of vehicles.	77	40	100	405	42	10,000
Miscellaneous recoveries.	2,484	2,751	8,777	10,981	3,638	5,599
Miscellaneous fees.	2,077	2,405	1,674	1,680	2,662	5,389
Advances and Deposits.	1,485	7,343	2,036	7,496	3,314	4,918
Revenue Adjust. between District Council & Assam Govt.	1,404	8,873	—	—	—	—
Administration of Justice.	205	365	505	550	270	553
Total	8,437	22,057	13,275	21,112	10,588	26,561

Grants-in-aid from the State Govt. : Grants from the State Govt. form an important source of income to the District Council exchequer. The grants from the State Govt. received by the District Council, North Cachar Hills can be categorised under two heads, i.e., (i) grants for the development works and (ii) grants for the test relief works. Grants for development works are sanctioned annually against the specified schemes but the grants for test relief works are not the recurring feature. Only in the year of 1963-64 and 1964-65, an amount of Rs.92,000/- and Rs. 1,48,500/- respectively were received by the District Council of North Cachar Hills as test relief grants. Besides, a loan of Rs.1,47,000/- and Rs.30,000/- were received by the District Council of North Cachar Hills from the State Govt. in 1959-60, and 1960-61 respectively. Below table shows the grants and loans received by the District Council of North Cachar Hills from 1959-60 to 1964-65. :—

Heads	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Grants for development works.	1,15,374	1,16,056	92,807	1,05,294	1,27,390	4,25,571
Grants for test relief Works.	—	—	—	—	92,000	1,48,500
Total	1,15,374	1,16,056	92,807	1,05,294	2,19,390	5,74,071
Loans	1,47,000	30,000	—	—	—	—
Total of grants and loans.	2,62,374	1,46,056	92,807	1,05,294	2,19,390	5,74,071

EXPENDITURE : The total expenditure of the District Council of North Cachar Hills was Rs.11,61,550/- in 1964-65. This is about three times of the expenditure incurred during 1960-61. The expenditure of the District Council may be divided under four heads of (i) establishment (ii) education, (iii) development works and (iv) other expenditures (including buildings etc.). The details of the expenditure under these heads prior to the year of 1960-61, is not available.

Establishment : The expenditure under the head establishment includes the pay etc., of officers and staff including the District Council's Members but excluding education. The expenditure under this head is showing an upward trend since 1960-61. From Rs.1,79,424/- in 1960-61 it has increased to Rs.2,43,547/- in 1963-64 and further rose to Rs.3,22,491/- in 1964-65. The spurt increase during the year 1964-65, is mainly attributed to the pay revisions etc., of the staff.

Education : Expenditure on education under the District Council of North Cachar Hills is showing a downward trend up to the year 1963-64. From Rs.48,309/- in 1960-61, it has gradually declined to Rs.34,915/- in 1963-64, but this expenditure steeply rose to Rs.3,50,680/- in 1964-65. This is mainly due to the transfer of Primary Schools from the State Govt. to the District Council of North Cachar Hills.

Development Works : Development works undertaken by the District Council, North Cachar Hills, mainly comprises rural communica-

tion, rural water supply, small irrigation schemes, rural housing schemes, improvements of markets etc. These development works are undertaken by the District Council from its own funds as well as from the grants received from the State Govt. against specified schemes. The amount of expenditure on development works incurred by the District Council from its own funds has declined from Rs.19,164/- in 1960-61 to Rs.12,420/- in 1964-65. No uniform pattern is visualised as regards the amount of expenditure from Govt. grants. The total amount of expenditure on development works from both the sources was Rs.99,793/- in 1960-61 and rose to peak mark of Rs.1,24,314/- in 1962-63. Since then it began to decline and amounted to Rs.78,195/- in 1964-65.

Other expenditures : This head mainly comprises expenditure on buildings etc., and any other expenditure not included in the above described heads. The District Council since its establishment has constructed a number of buildings for its offices etc. The amount of expenditure incurred under this head was Rs.4,10,184/- during 1964-65. The following table shows expenditure of North Cachar Hills District Council since 1960-61 to 1964-65 :—

Year	Expenditure on Establishment i.e., pay and allowances of officers and staff including District Council's Members but excluding education.	Education	Development works such as rural communication, rural water supply self help schemes, improvement of bazars, construction of roads, ringwells, water reservoirs or tanks and beautification of towns etc.			All other expenditures	Grand Total
			From Council's own resources.	From State Govt. Grants.	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1960-61	1,79,424	48,309	19,164	30,629	99,713	1,11,227	4,38,753
1961-62	1,79,401	47,515	22,914	43,407	71,321	1,72,858	4,71,095
1962-63	2,24,338	36,276	7,349	1,16,965	1,24,314	88,848	4,73,776
1963-64	2,43,547	34,915	13,095	94,312	1,07,406	2,30,553	6,16,421
1964-65	3,22,491	3,50,680	12,420	65,776	78,195	4,10,184	11,61,550

(d) **PANCHAYATS :**

Organisation and structure, powers and duties, financial sources, special achievements if any : The administration of Panchayats in the district comes under the perview of the two District Councils of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India has provided that the District Council shall have power to make laws with respect to the establishment of village or town committees or Councils, their powers and any other matter relating to village or town administration including village or town police and public health and sanitation. The District Council may constitute village councils or courts for the trial of suits and cases between the parties all of whom belong to scheduled tribes within their respective areas. The District Council may, with the previous approval of the Governor, make rules regulating (1) the constitution of village councils or courts and the powers to be exercised by them ; (2) the procedure to be followed by village councils or courts in the trial of suits and cases ; (3) the procedure to be followed in appeals and other proceedings ; (4) the enforcement of decisions and orders of such councils and courts ; (5) all other ancillary matters.

The Village Councils or Village Courts as provided in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, have not yet been constituted by the District Council authorities in either of the two Autonomous Districts of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. However, there exist traditional Village *Panchayats* in all the tribal villages of the district. These are the products of customs and traditions and continue to exist since time immemorial. This system is traditional of Indian society particularly in Assam. The Village *Panchayats* still decide petty cases in their respective villages according to their customs and traditions and it is perhaps due to the existence of these *Panchayats* that a very few number of cases of the people of rural Assam come to the court. The organisation of these Village *Panchayats* differ from tribe to tribe—though it is almost the same in the non-tribal plains villages. In North Cachar Hills, chief village authorities of these traditional *Panchayats* such as *Mauzadars* and *Gaonburas* are authorised to function as Village Courts under the North Cachar Hills District (Administration Of Justice) Rules, 1953.

CHAPTER—XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(a) **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND :**

(i) **Centres of learning in ancient mediaeval and early modern times. :** No data or record authentic enough to trace out the history of education in ancient mediaeval times in the newly constituted district of United Mikir & N.C. Hills is available. It is gathered that some scholars from Nabadwip and Kanauj came during the Kachari reign in the later part of the eighteenth century to impart education to the children of the highups of the Kacharis. The last two Kachari Kings, Gobinda Chandra and Krishna Chandra were great Sanskrit scholars. It is said that Gobinda Chandra even tried to translate *Mahabharata* into Dimasa dialect. Even earlier to the period of Gobinda Chandra, an attempt was made to codify the Kachari Penal Laws (*Kachari Danda Vidhi*). In absence of the authentic information and records, it is difficult to trace out the system of education that was in vogue during the Kachari Kings. But it seems beyond doubt that whatever was the system of education, it was beyond the approach of the common man, otherwise some traces of that system must have come down by tradition to the people of the district.

The only form of educational institution that seems to have existed and is found even these days among the tribal people of the district is youngman's club ; popularly known as "*Dekachang*". It was in these institutions that the needs of education of the tribal people to some extent were catered. Reading and writing were not taught : but practical training in the art of agriculture, handicrafts, music, sports and tribal warfare was imparted.

Dekachang constructed by a village community is a big house and was considered essential in each village in ancient times. Even now it is commonly found among the tribal villages, especially in the hilly region of the district. It exerts a very strong influence in the village and on

tribal life by fulfilling a variety of functions. A boy enters the *Dekachang* when he is twelve or thirteen years (in some tribes it is 6 to 7 years) and remains there till he marries and sets up the house of his own. It is here that he fags for other boys and is taught his duties in life and generally hammered into shape and thus *Dekachang* tends to take the place of his father as a disciplinarian. It is here that the old men tell of the great deeds of the past and the coming generation is taught to carry out the old traditions in the future. Youths also take part along with other villagers in clearing of *jungles*, cultivation of fields, harvesting of crops and thus have a practical training in all aspects of agriculture which is the backbone of the village economy. Other curriculum are training in handicrafts like mat-making etc. and how to play with traditional musical instruments. In spirit it resembles the *gurugriha* and the *gurukula* system of ancient Hindu tradition. Youths are also given training in tribal warfare. All the community festivals and social gatherings are held in front of or near the *Dekachang* and the members of the *Dekachang* are the active participants in all functions held in the village. Members are even ready to face any emergency like fire, flood, war etc. that may arise in the village. A very strict discipline is maintained by the youth commander. The houses of these institutions (i.e. *Dekachang*) are the finest and the most ornamentally decorated, depicting the traditional art of a particular tribe. The basic functions and organisational set up of *Dekachang* known by different names among different tribes, are more or less the same, though differing in minute details. The institution is known by "*Jirkedam*" among the Karbis, "*Morung*" among Rengma Nagas ; "*Buonkaw*" among Hmars and "*Nodvang*" among Dimasa Kacharis.

The institution of *Dekachang* seems to be declining. It is almost extinct in the plain areas of the district. The reasons attributed to its decline seem partly the spread of education and partly the discouragement it received from missionaries who considered it a hindrance in spreading their messiah of Christianity. Parents now prefer to send their children to the primary schools than to *Dekachang*.

(ii) **Beginning of Western Education** : Western education in the district began with the coming of the first missionary named late Rev. Garlen William to Haflong in 1905. He built the first mission house and a tiny school where he used to teach very few boys. When he left, the work was supervised by the Late Rev. T.W. Roose from Silechar and in 1912 Late Rev. J.M. Harris took over the mission work. It is during his time that many schools were established in the interiors of North Cachar Hills particularly in villages inclined to Christianity. It is said

that first primary school, in Bengali, was established at Gunjong in 1895, and the same year the sub-divisional head quarter was shifted to Haflong and the school was closed. In 1909 and 1910, two more primary schools were established at Boroarkap and Jatinga respectively. In 1912, the first Mission Middle English School was started in the Haflong town by the Presbyterian Mission. In the meantime, a Bengali Venture Middle School was also set up. Besides the above schools, many other primary schools established by the Presbyterian Mission in the early thirtieth of the twentieth century were as follows :-

Name of the schools.	Year of starting the schools.
1. Langbikang Primary School	1912
2. Kamphai " "	1912
3. Khohak " "	1912
4. Malangpha " "	1914
5. Vaitang " "	1921
6. Ngalsong " "	1922
7. Ngente " "	1922
8. Pathorkot " "	1922
9. Vongjob " "	1922
10. Purna " "	1922
11. Lerkek " "	1922
12. Mualdam " "	1926
13. Khothlir " "	1926
14. Borolokha " "	1927
15. Langbui " "	1928
16. Buangkui " "	1928
17. Jahai " "	1928

Many more schools were established after this period but since 1951 gradually the Mission Schools have been handed over to the Govt. for better running of the same. In 1963, only 24 Primary Schools with the strength of 380 students were under the Mission.

After the lapse of about 12 years since the establishment of the two Middle Schools at Haflong, one Lower Primary School was established through public efforts and contribution at Maibong. In 1939, it was converted into Middle School, keeping the Lower Primary School section along with it. The School was provincialised in 1950. Some activities of missionaries were also noticed in Karbi Anglong but no record could be traced.

State activity in the field of education : As the present district was formed in 1951, the educational activities, prior to the formation of the district in the areas comprising the present district, were under the control of Deputy Inspectors of Schools, Nowgong, Golaghat, Shillong and Silchar. Due to the non-availability of the relevant informations, it is not possible to say at what time, State Govt. first took up the cause of the education by establishing the Lower Primary Schools or Middle Schools in the areas comprising the present district. In the areas under the administrative control of Deputy Inspector of Schools, Nowgong, only five schools, (one Middle School and four Lower Primary Schools) with a total enrolment of 124 were reported to be functioning in 1931. This, however, increased to 57 in 1951, there having been 3 Middle English Schools, one Middle Vernacular School and 53 Lower Primary Schools, with a total enrolment of 1,991. In areas under control of Deputy Inspector of Schools, Golaghat, there were 32 Schools, 23 Lower Primary Schools, 7 Venture Schools, one Middle English School and one Middle Vernacular School with total enrolment of 952, functioning in 1941. The number of schools increased to 64 with total enrolment of 2,132 in 1951. Out of these 64 schools, there were 3 Middle English Schools, two Govt. Aided Middle English Schools, one Govt. Middle Vernacular School, 34 Govt. Lower Primary Schools, 16 Board's Lower Primary Schools and one Govt. Aided Lower Primary School. Besides, eleven Social Education Centres with the enrolment of 167 were reported to be functioning during the same year. In 1954, there were only 7 Lower Primary Schools under the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Shillong. During the same year North Cachar Hills had 68 Schools of which 66 were Lower Primary Schools and two Middle English Schools under the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Silchar.

The office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District was established on 30th Nov, 1953 with the appointment of the Deputy Inspector of Schools with headquarters at Diphu vide Govt. letter No.PD/TW (7L) 62/43/14/ Dated 24th Sept, 1953. He was given jurisdiction over all the Primary and Middle Schools in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district previously falling under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Inspector of Schools of the parent districts and accordingly the transfer of the schools took place gradually in 1954. The number of schools transferred from the control of the respective Deputy Inspector of Schools were as follows :-

Area.	Govt.L.P. Schools	Board L.P. Schools	M.E. Schools	M.V. Schools.	Private L.P. Schools.
(1) D.I. of Schools Golaghat.	36	27	3	—	—
(2) D.I. of Schools Nowgong.	48 (including 3 Govt. Aided)	39	3	1	—
(3) D.I. of Schools Shillong.	5	—	—	—	21
(4) D.I. of Schools Silchar.	65 (including 7 Govt. Aided)	—	2	—	1
Total	154	66	8	1	22

Thus at the outset in 1954, there were 210 Govt. Lower Primary Schools (including 66 Board's Primary Schools later on merged with the Govt. Schools), 10 Govt. Aided Lower Primary Schools, 8 Govt. Middle English Schools, one Govt. Middle Vernacular School and 22 Private or Venture Schools. The number of Govt. Lower Primary Schools increased to 149 in the same year with opening and taking over of some schools. Strength of Govt. Aided Schools reduced to one only. The number of Middle English Schools and Middle Vernacular Schools remained static, two High Schools, one Govt. High School and another Govt. Aided High School started functioning. Besides, 11 junior Basic Schools were also opened in the district.

Both the District Councils of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills also entered the field of education by establishing a number of primary schools in their respective areas. The District Council of Karbi Anglong which was established (formerly known as the District Council of Mikir Hills) on 23rd. June, 1952, established 33 numbers of Lower Primary Schools which on next year increased to 51 and subsequently increased to 97 in 1959-60. The District Council of North Cachar Hills also established 6 nos. of Lower Primary Schools in 1956-57 which increased to 16 in 1959-60.

The number of schools doubled during the last 10 years. It has increased from 367 in 1954 to 816 in 1964. The increase in the number of students was almost three times and during the period, the number of students increased from 12,187 to 37,023. Along with the increase in the number of schools, the direct and indirect expenditure on schools also increased tremendously during the same period. The total direct and indirect expenditure increased from Rs.3,48,139/- and Rs.36,473/- in 1954 to Rs.17,65,950/- and Rs.2,13,921/- in 1964. A beginning was also made in the field of industrial education by opening a Govt. Training-cum-Production Centre at Diphu and three Weaving Training Centres at Haflong, Sariahjan and Diphu. Recently one Industrial Training Institute has also started functioning at Diphu. One Hindi-Teacher's Training Centre was also shifted to Diphu from Tezpur. Besides, two Colleges, one at Haflong (in 1961) and another at Diphu (in 1965) have also been established with public efforts. A good numbers of Social Education Centres were also opened to eradicate illiteracy among the adult population of the district. A statement of yearwise growth of Educational Institutions and total direct and indirect Expenditure is given in Appendix I & II. The boys and girls of these Educational Institutions are shown in Appendix III.

(b) LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS :

(i) **Growth of general literacy** : The district occupies the lowest position in matters of literacy and educational standards among the districts of Assam. In 1951, the percentage of literacy was only 5.87 i.e. far less than one third of the percentage of literacy of 18.2 for the whole of the State of Assam. The percentage of literacy for males stood at 9.26 and for female at 2.17. The total number of literates was 9,728 out of which 8,008 were male and 1,720 females. The Sub-divisional wise figures of literates, male and female for North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong were 3,828, 3,012, 816 and 4,644, 4,146 and 498 respectively (figures of Block I and Block II in Karbi Anglong were not included). Though Karbi Anglong had a larger number of literates than North Cachar Hills, comparing the size of population of both the sub-divisions the percentage of literacy in North Cachar Hills came far higher than that of Karbi Anglong. In case of female literates also North Cachar Hills occupied the better place. Its female literate population was almost double than of Karbi Anglong.

During the decade of 1951-61, there was some improvement in the percentage of literacy but the position of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills

among the districts of Assam remained unchanged. Literacy percentage increased from 5.87 in 1951 to 17.4 in 1961. There were 48,782 literates out of the total population of 2,79,722 according to the Census of 1961. The percentage of literacy for males improved from 9.26 in 1951 to 24.97 in 1961 and that of female from 2.17 in 1951 to 7.4 in 1961. Only 38,799 males and 9,483 females were returned as literates during the Census of 1961. The sub-division wise figures of literates, males, and females for Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills were 38,144; 30,971; 7,173 and 10,638; 7,828; 2,910 respectively. As regards the educational level of the literates in the district, 35,321 were literates of without any educational standard 12,319 were of primary and junior basic standard, and 1,142 were of matriculation and above as per the Census of 1961. The details of educational standard as per age and sex is given in Appendix IV.

Spread of education among women : That the education among women has not made much headway in this district was evident from the Census figures of 1951 and 1961 given in the preceding paragraphs. This is perhaps due to the fact that women are yet more bound to their household chorus and *jhum* works. Their shy nature is also accountable for their being kept confined with the house-hold affairs. These coupled with the non-existence of educational institution for women also accounted for the slow progress of education among the women of the district.

The Census of 1951 placed the percentage of literacy of women at 2.17 and the total number of women literates at 1,720 out of which 816 were in the North Cachar Hills and 498 in Karbi Anglong. More deplorable it becomes in Karbi Anglong if the percentage of literacy among the women is calculated taking into consideration its total female population of 59,965.

During the decade of 1951-61, a slight improvement in female education is noticeable. The percentage of literacy increased from 2.17 in 1951 to 7.4 in 1961. The total number of women literates in 1961 stood at 9,983 out of the total female population of 1,29,599. The sub-division wise figures of women literates in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills stood at 7,173 and 2,810 out of the total female population of 1,04,367 and 25,232 respectively. Of the 9,983 female literates, 7,844 were without any educational standard 2,013 were primary and junior Basic standard and 91 were matriculation and above standard.

Before 1954, there was only one Girl's L.P. School at Haflong. But in recent years, some more educational institutions exclusively for

females have come up. In 1964, there was one girl's Pre-Primary School, one Girl's Govt. L.P. School, one Girl's Govt. Aided M.E. School, and one Girl's unaided High School in the North Cachar Hills and one Girl's Govt. Aided High School in Karbi Anglong. Besides these institutions rest of the educational institutions in the district are co-educational, and girls received their education along with the boys. The number of female students in the different educational institutions in the district as well as sub-division wise are shown in the following tables :—

Year	Primary including of J.B. Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	College	Total
1954-55	2,377	169	92	—	2,638
1955-56	2,863	199	107	—	3,169
1956-57	3,192	206	117	—	3,515
1957-58	4,115	236	198	—	4,549
1958-59	4,597	334	210	—	5,141
1959-60	5,700	478	226	—	6,404
1960-61	6,008	478	276	—	6,762
1961-62	6,099	530	283	8	6,920
1962-63	8,084	762	318	19	9,183
1963-64	9,056	802	461	27	10,346
1964-65	9,799	843	506	32	11,180

Table showing the sub-division—wise figures of female students in the Educational Institutes in the District since 1959 to 1964.

Year	Primary Schools including J.B. Schools		Middle Schools		High Schools		College		Total	
	Karbi Ang- long	N.C. Hills	Karbi Ang- long	N.C. Hills	Karbi Ang- long	N.C. Hills	Karbi Ang- long	N.C. Hills	Karbi Ang- long	N.C. Hills
1959-60	4,359	1,341	368	110	79	147	—	—	4,806	1,598
1960-61	4,748	1,260	356	122	123	153	—	—	5,227	1,535
1961-62	4,711	1,388	440	90	122	161	—	8	5,273	1,647
1962-63	6,008	2,076	558	204	159	159	—	19	6,725	2,458
1963-64	6,916	2,140	572	230	169	292	—	27	7,656	2,689
1964-65	7,593	2,206	587	256	214	292	—	32	8,394	2,786

The above two tables show a gradual rise in the number of girl students in the district. The rise is almost five times. It has increased from 2,638 in 1954-55 to 11,180 in 1964-65.

Spread of education among backward classes : The advancement of the scheduled tribes engaged the attention of the Britishers in the Pre-Independence days, and perhaps in order to advance and safeguard the tribal interests in land and to prevent them from exploitation by the more advanced communities, that Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills were constituted into three "Partially Excluded Areas" under Nowgong, Sibsagar and Cachar districts. But little or no thought was given by the then Govt. for the promotion of economic and social welfare of these people. This had an adverse effect on the tribal people and resulted in isolating them. This policy of isolation erected an iron curtain around them which shut-out all contacts with other people of Assam. As a result, they remained undeveloped economically and socially. Their needs and aspirations were not known to others beyond the confines of their inhabitation. Whatever little welfare activities reached the people, came from the Christian Missionaries. Their activities were also confined to the establishment of a few primary schools or night schools particularly in Christian villages.

But since Independence, Govt. took active and keen interest in the education of the scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, and other backward classes. Special scholarships and various financial concessions were offered to attract the boys and girls from these communities. Education up to the primary level is free to all in the district and the children from the above communities get exemption of tuition fee up to the Matriculation level. Besides these, there are reservations of seats in the higher educational and other technical institutions in the State. As a result of the steps taken by the Govt., percentage of literacy for the whole of the population of the district has progressed from 5.87 in 1951 to 17.4 in 1961. The Census of 1961 places the number of literates belonging to scheduled tribes and scheduled castes in the district to 22,976 and 752 respectively. The sub-division—wise figures of literates ; male and female, belonging to scheduled tribes in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills were 14,392; 4,831 and 2,114; 1,639 and that of scheduled castes 450; 158 and 118 ; 26 respectively. No special school or educational institution has been provided for the advancement of education of these communities as the district is predominantly inhabited by the scheduled tribes. As per Census of 1961, scheduled tribes and scheduled castes accounted for 2,11,331 (75.55%) and 6,789 (2.43%) out of the total population of 2,79,726.

Due to the increase in the number of educational institutions and the steps taken by the Govt. described above there has been a steady increase in the number of students belonging to the scheduled tribes, scheduled caste and plains tribes and other backward classes. Their enrolment has increased from 8,435 ; 352 and 2,225 in 1954 to 6,339 ; 983 and 3,901 in 1964. The progress of the enrolment of the students of these communities since 1954 to 1964 is given in Appendix III.

(c) GENERAL EDUCATION :

Primary Schools : It is not possible to say when the first State or Local Board Primary School was established in the district as there are no authentic records available to ascertain it. However, it goes beyond denial that Missionaries were the pioneers to take up the cause of education by establishing few primary schools in 1912 in the North Cachar Hills as mentioned in the preceding paragraphs. Growth of Lower Primary Schools as per available records in the district since 1931 were as follows :-

Year	District		Karbi Anglong		N.C. Hills	
	L.P. Schools	Students	L.P. Schools	Students	L.P. Schools	Students.
1931	4	92	4	92	N.A.	N.A.
1941	64	1,900	64	1,900	N.A.	N.A.
1951	104	3,274	104	3,274	N.A.	N.A.
1954	326	10,298	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1955	363	11,300	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1956	372	11,475	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1957	410	13,587	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1958	475	14,933	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1959	500	16,786	349	12,999	151	3,787
1960	472	17,545	343	13,972	129	3,573
1961	526	17,451	344	13,211	182	4,240
1962	629	23,464	433	17,474	196	5,990
1963	694	26,716	470	20,623	224	6,093
1964	701	27,564	472	21,601	229	5,963

The table above shows that in the first two decades since 1931, the growth of L.P. Schools was at a very slow pace as the increase in the number of Lower Primary Schools during these twenty years was only about 100 but since then the growth is impressive one and has increased from 104 in 1951 to 701 in 1964-65. The increase is almost seven times. Along with the increase in the number of schools a steady increase in the number of students is also noticeable. From 3,274 in 1954, the number of students has increased to 27,564 in 1964. Scheduled tribes constituted about 70% of the total students and rest were scheduled castes, plains tribes and other backward classes and others.

The course of the L.P. Schools is for five years and the classes consist of A. B. 1, 11 and 111. The size of the classes are small except the class A. The medium of instruction in majority of the Lower Primary Schools is Assamese except in a few schools where mediums of instruction are Bengali and English.

Junior Basic Schools : Junior Basic Schools are comparatively of recent origin in the district. The course of the Junior Basic Schools is also of five years and consist of five classes from class I to class V. In the year of 1954-55, there were only eleven Govt. Junior Basic Schools and since then the number of Govt. Junior Basic Schools is gradually on in-

crease either by opening of new Junior Basic Schools or conversion of Lower Primary Schools into Junior Basic Schools. The following table shows the number of Junior Basic Schools and students in the district since 1954.

Year	District		Karbi Anglong		N.C. Hills	
	No. of Schools	No. of Students	No. of Schools	No. of Students	No. of Schools	No. of Students
1954	11	448	—	—	—	—
1955	17	779	—	—	—	—
1956	27	1,339	—	—	—	—
1957	31	1,662	—	—	—	—
1958	33	1,810	—	—	—	—
1959	52	2,369	46	2,082	6	287
1960	53	2,873	46	2,480	7	393
1961	53	2,890	46	2,498	7	392
1962	43	2,543	36	2,113	7	430
1963	43	2,852	36	2,370	7	482
1964	46	3,427	29	2,927	7	500

As stated elsewhere, the Primary Education, prior to the formation of the district, in the areas comprising the present district, were under the control of the Deputy Inspectors of Schools at Nowgong, Golaghat, Shillong and Silchar. This arrangement continued till the opening of the Office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools at Diphu in 1954. With the opening of this office, all the primary schools falling within the areas of the present district were transferred from the administrative control of the above mentioned Deputy Inspectors of Schools to the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Diphu. In 1959, another Office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools was opened at Haflong with jurisdiction over primary schools in the North Cachar Hills. Primary Education thus came under the administrative control of the two Deputy Inspectors of Schools, Diphu and Haflong exercising jurisdiction in their respective sub-divisions of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills.

Under para 6 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, the District Council of autonomous district is empowered to establish, construct, and manage primary schools and prescribe the language and the manner in which Primary Education shall be imparted in the primary

schools in the autonomous districts. In pursuance to this, all the Govt. primary schools in the Autonomous District of Karbi Anglong And Autonomous District of North Cachar Hills were transferred to the respective District Councils of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills on 1.4.61 & 1.4.64. Primary Education now is managed by the two separate District Boards of Primary Education for Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. Each of these Boards consists of nine members. The Executive Member of the respective District Council in-charge of the Education portfolio is the Chairman of the District Board of Primary Education and the respective Deputy Inspector of Schools is the *ex-officio* Secretary.

Secondary Schools : Secondary Schools in the district are divided into two categories of schools, i.e., High Schools and Middle Schools. High Schools are under the direct charge of the Inspector of Schools, Nowgong, and the Middle Schools are under the charge of the two Deputy Inspectors of Schools placed at Diphu and Haflong. Deputy Inspector of Schools initiates every scheme with the object of improving the standard of teaching and the general maintenance of the schools. The schemes of the classes are prepared by the Department of Education. It also prescribes the text books up to class VIII. The University of Gauhati prescribes the text books for the two classes, i.e., IX and X, of High Schools.

It is not known when the first Middle School was established in the district as the authentic information is not available. The first Govt. Middle English School (M.E. School) in the areas which formed part of the Nowgong district, was established on 1.1.38. at Tika. The other Middle Schools established in the same areas were one at Bokalia (Middle Vernacular School) on 1.4.45. and one each at Merok and Umpani (both Middle English Schools) in 1951. During the decade of 1941, two Middle Schools were reported to be functioning in the areas formerly forming part of the Sibsaigar district. The date of the establishment of these schools could not be ascertained. The number of Middle Schools in the same areas rose to 6 during the next decade.

In the year of 1954-55, there were only 28 Middle Schools and 2 High Schools. Out of the 28 Middle Schools, 8 were Govt. Middle English Schools, one Govt. Middle Vernacular School, 14 Govt. Aided Middle English Schools and 4 Private or Venture Middle English Schools and one Venture Middle Vernacular School. Of the two High Schools functioning in the district, one is Govt. High School and the other is Venture High School. The Govt. High School established at Haflong

was the first High School in the district. It was initially a Private School raised to the status of a High School in 1946 and provincialised on 17th Nov., 1951. The number of boys and girls receiving education during the same year, in Middle Schools were 842 and 169 and that in High Schools were 338 and 92 respectively. The scheduled tribes students in the Middle Schools and High Schools accounted for 710 and 200 respectively.

In 1955-56, 4 private or Venture Middle Schools were added to the existing 28 Middle Schools. The number of High Schools remained unchanged. The total enrolment rose to 1,124 in Middle Schools and to 497 in High Schools. Out of these students, there were 925 boys and 199 girls in Middle Schools and 390 boys and 107 girls in High Schools. The scheduled tribes students in the two categories of schools were 924 and 95 respectively.

The number of Middle Schools declined from 32 in the previous year to 27 in 1956-57 due to the winding up of 5 nos. of Private or Venture Middle Schools. One more Venture High School was added to the existing two High Schools. Contrary to the decline of number of Middle Schools, the enrolment increased to 1,305 out of which 1,099 were boys and 206 girls. The enrolment in High Schools also rose to 619 out of which 502 were boys and 117 girls. The number of scheduled tribes students in Middle and High Schools were 1,027 and 295 respectively.

The number of Middle Schools and High Schools in the district rose to 40 and 12 respectively in 1959-60. Out of the 40 Middle schools, 2 Govt. Middle English School and 5 Private or Venture Middle English Schools were in N.C. Hills and 7 Govt. Middle English Schools, one Govt. Middle Vernacular Schools, 20 Govt. Aided Middle English Schools and 5 Private or Venture Middle English Schools were in Karbi Anglong. Of the 12 High Schools in the district, two were Govt. High Schools, one each in the Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. Out of the remaining High Schools, 4 Govt. Aided High Schools and 5 Private or Venture High Schools were in Karbi Anglong and one Venture High School in North Cachar Hills. The Number of students during the same year increased to 2,296 in Middle schools and 1,268 in High Schools. The students belonging to scheduled tribes were 1,713 and 512 respectively in the above two categories of Schools.

Since 1959, the Middle Schools and high Schools further rose to 56 and 13 respectively in the year of 1964-65. Out of the 56 Middle Schools, there were 14 Govt. Middle English Schools, 1 Govt. Middle Vernacular School, 34 Govt. Aided Middle English Schools and 7 private or venture Middle English Schools and of 13 High Schools, there were two Govt. High Schools, 5 Govt. Aided High Schools and 6 private or Venture High Schools. There were 3,098 boys and 803 girls and 1,439 boys and 506 girls students respectively in Middle Schools and High Schools in the district during the same year. The students belonging to Scheduled tribes in the two categories of schools were 2,729 and 836 respectively. The followings are the tables showing the growth of schools and students in the district.

Year	District		Karbi Anglong North Cachar Hills					
			Middle Schools		High Schools		Middle Schools	
			Schools	Students	Schools	Students	Schools	High Schools
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1931	1	32	—	—	1	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1941	4	328	—	—	4	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1951	10	567	—	—	10	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1954	28	1,011	2	430	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1955	32	1,124	2	497	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1956	27	1,305	3	619	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1957	30	1,362	4	860	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1958	32	1,761	6	986	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1959	40	1,296	12	1,288	33	10	7	2
1960	44	2,415	11	1,326	36	9	8	2
1961	39	2,706	8	1,485	37	7	2	1
1962	46	3,158	11	1,642	39	9	7	2
1963	53	3,620	12	1,897	46	9	7	3
1964	56	3,941	13	1,945	46	10	10	3

Statement showing the Middle Schools and High Schools under different management.

Management	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Govt. M.E. Schools.	8	8	8	8	9	9	10	10	10	14	14
Govt. M.V. Schools.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Govt. Aided M.E. Schools.	14	14	14	15	19	20	20	20	32	30	34
Private or Venture M.E. Schools.	4	8	3	6	3	10	13	8	3	8	7
Private or Venture M.V. Schools.	1	1	1								
Total Middle Schools.	28	32	27	30	32	40	44	39	46	53	56
Govt. High Schools.	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Govt. Aided High Schools.	1	1	1	—	—	4	4	4	5	5	5
Private High Schools.	—	—	—	2	4	6	5	2	4	5	6
Total High Schools.	2	2	3	4	6	12	11	8	11	12	13

There has been considerable expansion of facilities for awarding scholarships, free-studentships and other financial concessions to the students prosecuting studies in Middle and High Schools. All tribal students right from Primary to High School stage are exempted from payment of tuition fees. The following table shows the boys and girls receiving scholarships, free studentships etc., between 1954 to 1964.

Year Middle School	Scholarships		Free-studentships		Other financial concessions	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1954	35	6	—	—	—	—
1955	28	6	20	—	—	—
1956	69	15	67	12	9	2
1957	15	5	45	5	375	40
1958	167	26	144	21	2	2
1959	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1960	177	26	830	194	623	136
1961	162	21	41	13	589	95
1962	287	53	206	45	396	157
1963	434	59	130	40	374	171
1964	433	100	239	73	35	32

High Schools.

1954	43	9	—	—	—	—
1955	52	11	53	28	38	—
1956	69	12	238	48	61	24
1957	122	18	95	48	10	—
1958	175	31	369	70	81	35
1959	96	15	157	61	84	40
1960	161	23	447	84	153	51
1961	132	24	414	100	296	49
1962	230	41	486	129	142	36
1963	248	39	519	142	169	27
1964	358	109	379	95	—	—

Colleges : Collegiate education in the district is just at its nascent stage. The first college in the district was established in 1961 at Haflong while the second college was started at Diphu in 1965. Both the colleges are Arts college and both have been established with public efforts and continue to be managed by them. Proposal to take over both the colleges by Govt. is under consideration.

Haflong College : Haflong college was started at Haflong in the North Cachar Hills through public efforts on 4th. Sept. 1961. The enrolment during that year consisted of 51 students with the teaching staff and five lecturers including one Vice Principal. The College is now a full fledged Degree Arts College having an enrolment of 146 students in 1964. The number of teaching staff has also increased to 15 during the same year. The College proposed to construct the building of its own with an estimated cost of Rs.1,40,000/-. The tables below show the receipt and expenditure, enrolment, etc. of Haflong College since 1961. :-

Statement of receipts and expenditure of Haflong College since 1961 (in rupees).

Receipt and expenditure	Head of account	Year			
		1961	1962	1963	1964
Receipt	1. Tuition fee	3,200	11,566	14,868	24,795
	Grants-in-aid from State Govt. U.G.C. etc.	—	75,000	27,000	52,445
	Grants-in-aid from District Council.	10,000	8,667	—	11,000
	Miscellaneous.	19,591	9,920	8,362	9,269
	Total—	32,791	37,653	50,230	97,509

Expenditure	Establishment, pay of staff in- cluding building } etc.	7,394	26,066	67,979	56,130
	Library	970	761	717	1,233
	Misc.	1,000	2,288	2,899	7,500
	Total	9,364	29,115	70,695	64,863

Statement showing the enrolment of the Haflong College since 1961.

Year	Total	Boys	Girls	S.T.	S.C.	Plains tribes and other Backward Classes	Total Colmn 5,6, & 7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1961	51	4	4	14		7	18
1962	90	71	19	14	2	10	26
1963	111	84	27	33	2	7	42
1964	146	114	32	32	3	10	45

Diphu College : Diphu College was established at Diphu in Karbi Anglong, the District head-quarters of United Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills District on 15th. July 1965 with public efforts. The College has only one class i.e. Pre-University Class, with a total enrolment of 70 students, 65 boys and 5 girls. Of these 70 students, 22 belong to scheduled tribes, 10 to scheduled castes and 17 plains tribes and other backward classes. There were 4 boys and 1 girl receiving scholarships and 1 boy getting half free-studentship. The number of teaching staff was 7 including the Principal. The College became a full fledged Degree Arts College from 1967. During the year 1965-66, the College received a grant of Rs.50,000/- (Rs.25,000/- from the State Govt. and Rs.25,000/- from the District Council of Karbi Anglong. Table shows the receipt and expenditure of the Diphu Collge. :-

RECEIPT		EXPENDITURE	
1. Tution fee	Rs. 7,759.00	1. Establishment (includ- ing pay of staff, build- ing, office maintena- nce etc.)	Rs. 44,861.46

2. Grants-in-aid

(a) State Govt.	Rs. 25,000.00	2. Scholarship, financial concession etc.	Rs. 60.00
(b) District Council Karbi Anglong	Rs. 25,000.00	3. Purchase of books and periodicals for library.	Rs. 1,500.00
(c) Public con- tribution.	Rs. 23,400.00	4. Miscellaneous	Rs. 2,500.00
Total receipts.	Rs. 81,195.00	5. Total expenditure.	Rs. 48,821.46

(d) PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES :

Toy Factory, Diphu : On 21st. January 1957, the State Govern-ment opened a Toy Factory Training-cum-Production Centre at Diphu with a view to provide technical education to the tribal people of the district. Besides, providing free hostel accommodation, the trainees get Rs.40/- each per month as stipend. The students are being imparted with both theoret-ical and practical training in manufacture of wooden toys, solid and flat, educational toys, ragdolls, paper and pulp dolls and so on. Steps have also been taken to impart training in making plastic and rubber dolls to the students. Carpentry section has also been added to the institute. The first batch of 5 trainees completed the two year's training in 1959. The second batch consisting of 9 trainees completed the course in 1961.

Industrial Training Institute, Diphu : The insitute is the latest but the most important addition in the field of industrial education in the district. It was established by the Govt. at Diphu on 1.4.64 with a view to encourage technical education in the district. The institution at present offers instructions in trades of carpentry, fitter, welder and black-smithy, but there is a provision for expansion of the institute during the Fourth Five Year Plan providing training facilities with 32 seats each in (a) Motor Mechanic (b) Turner (c) Wireman and (d) Electrician. The duration of the course is of 18 months. The number of students on roll during 1964-65 and 1965-66, was 29 and 36, of which 5 and 12 belong to scheduled tribes. The strength of teaching staff during the same year was 6 and 9 respectively. No tuition fee is charged from the trainees. They are also provided with free hostel accommodation. In 1964-65, 14 trainees were awarded stipends of which 8 were awarded merit sti-pends @ Rs.25/- per month, five hill tribes trainees (a) Rs.15/- per months and one trainee was awarded poor stipends @ Rs.10/- per month. The expenditure on the Industrial Training Institute was as follows :-

Head of expenditure	Year	
	1963-64	1964-65
1. Direct expenditure, (including tools, equipment furniture etc.)	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs.72,500/-
2. Building.	Rs.4,47,000/-	—
3. Scholarship.	—	Rs. 2,580/-
4. Hostel Charge.	—	Rs. 335/-

Hindi Training School, Diphu : The Hindi Training School was first established at Misamari in Tezpur sub-division of Darrang District on 21st. July 1952 with a view to impart training in teaching of Hindi in the State of Assam. Due to Chinese Aggression in 1962, the School was shifted to Diphu along with its students and staff on 1st. April 1963. It is housed at present in the building constructed for Primary Teacher's Basic Training School.

Teachers as well as fresh candidates are admitted to the School. Every trainee gets a stipend of Rs.45/- per month. The capacity of the institute is of 125 (both male and female). But due to lack of hostel accommodation, female candidates are not given admission from the session of 1963. The trainees on the roll in 1963 and 1964 were 107 and 119 respectively. The total expenditure during these two years was Rs.70,103.28 P. and Rs.71,316/- respectively.

Gramudyog Vidyalaya, Sariahjan : Gram Udyog Vidyalaya, Sariahjan was established by the Mikir Hills Seva Kendra in 1959. to give training in carpentry, *ghani*, and in the work of fitter and soap making. All the trainees in these sections were tribal. Its staff consisted of two trained Instructors and one trained demonstrator.

(e) SCHOOLS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF FINE ARTS :

Diphu Music School : The Music School at Diphu was established under the auspices of Diphu Kala Kendra in 1956. It is imparting

training to children as well as to adults in vocal and instrumental music and dances etc. Special emphasis is laid on the revival of tribal arts and culture. The Institution has undertaken research work in tribal music and dance and is contemplating to publish a book on completion of research work. It is getting a recurring grant of Rs.150/-per month from the District Council of Karbi Anglong. The enrolment of the students in the school was fifty in 1964-65 and the strength of teaching staff was three

Haflong Music College : Haflong Music College was established on 1.9.62. but later on converted to college and was named as "Haflong Music College." The college is now affiliated to Bhatkandy Sangeet Vidyapith, Lucknow. The College have five classes consisting of two classes in vocal music, one Class in *tabla*, one in dace and one in *sitar*. The classes are held four days a week. In 1964-65, there were 39 students on the role in the college, of which 12 were tribal students. During the same year the number of teaching staff was four of which 3 were trained in Bhatkandy Sangeet Vidyapith, Lucknow.

The College is managed by a managing committee of 11 members including the office bearers. In 1964-65, the College has received a grant of Rs.3,950/- from the Govt. of Assam including an amount of Rs.375/- from the District Council, N.C. Hills. Under the auspices of the College, two Music Conferences were held in 1963 and 1964. Proposals are there for the opening of some classes in tribal dance and Music.

(f) ADULT LITERACY AND SOCIAL EDUCATION :

With a view to spread literacy among the people, Adult Education Centres are organised in the villages by the Education Department as well as by the Community Development Blocks. Duration of these centres is 8 months. This 8 months period is divided into three phases (i) The first phase for 4 months and second and third phase for 2 months respectively. Adults are taught reading and writing. Discourses are also arranged on current problems and topics. After the completion of course, test is held and the result is declared. The number of Adult Education Centres varies from year to year and no uniform pattern is visualised due to non-availability of informations from all concerned. The progress made under the scheme is as follows :-

Statement showing the progress of Adult Education Centres in the District.

Year	Enrolment in the centres.		Made literate during the year.		Expenditure in rupees
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1955	1,036	25	790	13	4,503
1956	1,037	—	803	—	8,147
1957	3,699	—	1,909	—	9,881
1958	2,251	169	1,881	133	9,922
1959	1,715	168	1,446	150	3,358
1960	1,048	157	952	127	3,985
1961	741	159	670	132	2,597
1962	430	131	385	7	2,080
1963	357	32	324	15	2,160
1964	880	—	825	—	5,980

(g) **CULTURAL, LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES :**

Assam Sahitya Sabha : A branch of the Assam Sahitya Sabha was established at Diphu in 1959 with a view to hold literary and cultural discourses. It also aims at promotion of local tribal languages or dialects and fostering harmony amongst divergent linguistic groups.

Diphu Club : The Diphu club was established in 1964 with a view to promote sports and games as well as to provide recreation and amusement to the people of the town. The club has its library with a collection of 585 books, tribal arts and crafts show room, auditorium and a full fledged stage for performance of drama dance etc. It has also a section of sports and games both outdoor and indoor games and conducts annual competition and awards trophies to the winners.

The club is conducting two running shield competitions. One in the name of J.B. *Rajkhora*, the final game of which is usually played on 15th. of August every year synchronizing the Independence Day celebrations and other in the memory of Munindra Choudhury which was donated by Shri P.C. Choudhury, in the name of his son.

The football league competition was also run by this club prior to organisation of the Karbi Anglong Sports Association in 1959 but it has been transferred to the said association for conducting the league competition at Diphu. It also runs one volley-ball competition, the final of which is played every year on 26th January, the Republic Day.

With a view to encourage the artists and for infusing a competitive spirit amongst the youngsters, the club has also introduced a scheme of annual prize awards to the best participants from 1962. The members of the club are also taking part annually in Assam One Act Play Conference since 1961.

The club has about 150 members and 13 life members. One can become a member of the club on payment of Rs.2/- as admission fee and Rs.1/- as a monthly fee, life membership is granted on payment of Rs.250/- in cash. The General Meeting of the club also can confer life membership to a person in recognition of his valuable services rendered to the club. Besides, the club serves as a Public Hall for all public gatherings, meetings etc. official or non-official, held in the town.

Central Cultural Institute, Haflong : The building of the institute with the stage attached to it was constructed by the District Council, North Cachar Hills, out of the grants for such purposes received from the Govt. during the period from 1955 to 1958. The District Council, North Cachar Hills has also contributed Rs.10,000/-. Some amount was also donated by the local people. Facilities for indoor games and some outdoor games are available at the Institute. There is a small library attached to the Institute. Like the Diphu club, it is also the nerve centre of all social gatherings and meetings at Haflong.

Hmar Literary Society, Moolhai Haflong : The Hmar Literary Society was established in 1954 in Moolhai village situated at a distance of about 3 Kms. from Haflong. The objects of the society are the eradication of illiteracy among the Hmar Community and their social upliftment, promotion of better understanding among different tribes and rendering financial assistance to the needy students. The society is managed by an Executive Committee of 8 members including President.

The society has constructed one library hall at Moolhai at the cost of Rs.1400/-. The construction of the said hall was undertaken on voluntary basis by the local people of Moolhai village in addition to the Govt. grants. The society has published 10,000 copies of Hmar—Hindi text book to be used as a school text book upto the standard VI with a sum of Rs.1000/-. It also intends to publish some more books such as Hmar—Assamese, Aesop's Fables etc. and the books are under preparation. Proposal for improvement of football field at Moolhai is also there with the society.

Cultural Institute of Shreemanta Sankar Mission : Shreemanta Sankar Mission, Nowgong has also established two cultural institutes, one at Ouguri and the other at Tumprong in Karbi Anglong. Cultural programmes of these institutes usually are of local interest.

Besides the above, there are some youth clubs functioning in the different parts of the district under the patronage of the Community Development Blocks.

(h) **LIBRARIES :**

Only recently two libraries, one at Diphu and other at Haflong, has been established by the State Government.

APPENDIX—1

Statement showing the Educational Institutions in the District of
United Mikir and N.C. Hills since the year 1954-55.

Year	Categories of educational institutions.	Karbi Anglong	N.C. Hills	District	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1954-55	Primary Schools	—	—	326	
	Junior Basic Schools	—	—	11	
	Middle Schools	—	—	28	
	High Schools.	—	—	2	
	Colleges	—	—	—	
	Total	—	—	367	
1955-56	Primary Schools	—	—	363	
	Junior Basic Schools	—	—	17	
	Middle Schools	—	—	32	
	High Schools	—	—	2	
	Colleges	—	—	—	
	Total	—	—	414	
1956-57	Primary Schools	—	—	372	
	Junior Basic Schools	—	—	27	
	Middle Schools	—	—	27	
	High Schools	—	—	3	
	Colleges	—	—	—	
	Total	—	—	429	
1957-58	Primary Schools	—	—	410	
	Junior Basic Schools	—	—	31	
	Middle Schools	—	—	30	
	High Schools	—	—	4	
	Colleges	—	—	—	
	Total	—	—	475	
1958-59	Primary Schools	—	—	475	
	Junior Basic Schools	—	—	33	
	Middle Schools	—	—	32	
	High Schools	—	—	6	
	Colleges	—	—	—	
	Total	—	—	545	

1959-60	Primary Schools	349	151	500
	Junior Basic Schools	46	6	52
	Middle Schools	33	7	40
	High Schools	10	2	12
	Colleges	—	—	—
	Total	438	166	604
1960-61	Primary Schools	343	129	472
	Junior Basic Schools	46	7	53
	Middle Schools	36	8	44
	High Schools	9	2	11
	Colleges	—	—	—
	Total	434	146	580
1961-62	Primary Schools	344	182	526
	Junior Basic Schools	46	7	53
	Middle Schools	37	2	39
	High Schools	7	1	8
	Colleges	—	1	1
	Total	434	193	627
1962-63	Primary Schools.	433	196	629
	Junior Basic Schools	36	7	43
	Middle Schools	39	7	46
	High Schools	9	2	11
	Colleges	—	1	1
	Total	517	213	730
1963-64	Primary Schools	470	224	694
	Junior Basic Schools	36	7	43
	Middle Schools	46	7	52
	High Schools	9	3	12
	Colleges	—	1	1
	Total	561	242	803
1964-65	Primary Schools	472	229	701
	Junior Basic Schools	39	7	46
	Middle Schools	46	10	56
	High Schools	10	3	13
	Colleges	—	1	1
	Total	567	250	817

APPENDIX—11

Statement showing the Direct and Indirect expenditure on Primary, Secondary Education, sub-division wise since the year 1954-55.

Year, Categories of schools		Karbi Anglong		N.C. Hills		District	
		Direct expenditure	Indirect expenditure	Direct expenditure	Indirect expenditure	Direct expenditure	Indirect expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1954-55							
	Primary Schools	..	..	..	..	1,95,570	
	Junior Basic Schools	..	..	..	..	7,438	
	Middle Schools	..	..	..	..	93,013	36,473
	High Schools	..	..	..	..	52,118	
	Total	..	..	..	..	3,48,139	36,473
1955-56							
	Primary Schools	..	..	..	..	2,48,674	
	Junior Basic Schools	..	..	..	..	33,491	
	Middle Schools	..	..	..	..	1,46,766	47,170
	High Schools	..	..	..	..	55,811	
	Total	..	..	..	..	4,84,742	47,170
1956-57							
	Primary Schools	..	..	..	..	3,03,651	
	Junior Basic Schools	..	..	..	..	71,322	
	Middle Schools	..	..	..	..	1,32,037	2,74,399
	High Schools	..	..	..	..	89,379	
	Total	..	..	..	..	5,96,389	2,74,399
1957-58							
	Primary Schools	..	..	..	..	3,41,344	
	Junior Basic Schools	..	..	..	..	44,340	
	Middle Schools	..	..	..	..	1,25,066	2,49,154
	High Schools	..	..	..	..	1,05,767	
	Total	..	..	..	..	6,15,517	2,49,154

1958-59

Primary Schools	..	..	..	..	5,42,072	
Junior Basic Schools	..	..	..	..	84,037	
Middle Schools	..	..	..	..	1,67,256	1,62,838
High Schools	..	..	..	..	19,141	
Total	..	..	..	..	8,12,506	1,62,838

1959-60

Primary Schools	3,87,912	..	1,37,191	..	5,25,103	..
Junior Basic Schools	81,364	..	7,339	..	88,703	..
Middle Schools	1,62,241	2,06,056	22,867	1,08,637	1,85,108	3,14,693
High Schools	51,465	..	86,691	..	1,38,156	..
Total	6,82,982	2,06,056	2,54,088	1,08,637	9,37,070	3,14,693

1960-61

Primary Schools	4,26,828	..	1,64,297	..	5,91,125	..
Junior Basic Schools	82,684	..	17,694	..	1,00,378	4,02,649
Middle Schools	1,72,142	3,17,514	22,007	85,135	1,94,149	..
High Schools	1,15,533	..	87,625	..	2,03,158	..
Total	7,97,187	3,17,514	2,91,623	85,135	10,88,810	4,02,649

1961-62

Primary Schools	3,42,550	..	1,61,742	..	5,04,292	..
Junior Basic Schools	74,725	..	16,523	..	91,228	..
Middle Schools	1,57,022	3,08,838	229,277	72,202	1,79,949	..
High Schools	88,774	..	87,051	..	1,75,825	38,120
Total	6,63,051	3,08,838	2,88,243	72,202	9,51,294	3,81,203

1962-63

Primary Schools	3,65,767	..	2,19,032	..	5,84,799	..
Junior Basic Schools	64,940	3,11,017	20,283	..	85,223	..
Middle Schools	1,78,363	..	32,518	80,927	2,10,881	3,91,944
High Schools	13,928	..	97,352	..	1,11,280	..
Total	622,998	3,11,017	369,185	80,927	9,92,183	3,91,944

1963-64

Primary Schools	5,86,028	..	2,69,036	..	8,55,964	..
Junior Basic Schools	85,358	..	22,400	..	1,07,758	..
Middle Schools	2,21,519	95,073	39,683	78,162	2,61,202	1,73,235
High Schools	1,19,340	..	1,14,825	..	2,34,165	..
Total	10,12,245	95,073	4,45,944	78,162	14,58,189	1,73,235

1964-65

Primary Schools	7,94,680	..	2,95,185	..	10,89,865	..
Junior Basic Schools	89,891	..	23,442	..	113,333	..
Middle Schools	2,47,007	1,37,647	64,744	76,274	3,11,751	2,13,921
High Schools	1,15,356	..	1,35,645	..	2,51,001	..
Total	12,46,934	1,37,647	5,19,016	76,274	17,65,950	2,13,921

APPENDIX—III

Year	Categories of educational institutions	Total enrolment	S.T.	S.C.	P.T. & O.B.C.	Total of colm.4, 5 & 6
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1954-55	L.P. Schools	10,298	7,201	300	2,005	9,506
	J.B. Schools	448	324	24	100	448
	M. Schools	1,011	710	20	100	830
	H. Schools	430	200	8	20	228
	College	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	12,187	8,435	352	2,225	11,012
1955-56	L.P. Schools	11,300	6,798	715	2,754	9,167
	J.B. Schools	779	601	15	85	701
	M. Schools	1,224	924	24	100	1,048
	H. Schools	497	95	4	15	014
	College	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	13,700	8,618	758	2,954	12,330
1956-57	L.P. Schools	11,475	8,444	101	1,003	9,548
	J.B. Schools	1,339	836	16	95	947
	M. Schools	1,305	1,027	10	90	1,127
	H. Schools	619	295	8	50	353
	College	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	14,738	10,602	135	1,238	11,975
1957-58	L.P. Schools	13,587	10,410	506	1,710	12,626
	J.B. Schools	1,662	1,394	16	85	1,495
	M. Schools	1,362	1,027	5	95	1,127
	H. Schools	860	357	15	85	457
	College	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	17,471	13,188	542	1,975	15,705
1958-59	L.P. Schools	14,933	11,155	154	958	12,267
	J.B. Schools	1,810	1,520	11	190	1,721
	M. Schools	21,761	1,310	12	110	1,432
	H. Schools	986	420	18	102	540
	College	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	19,490	14,405	195	1,360	15,960

1959-60	L.P. Schools	16,786	13,615	251	629	14,495
	J.B. Schools	2,369	2,125	62	118	12,305
	M. Schools	2,296	1,713	12	200	1,925
	H. Schools	1,268	512	10	87	609
	College	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	22,719	17,965	335	1,034	19,334
1960-61	L.P. Schools	17,545	13,658	135	1,139	14,932
	J.B. Schools	2,873	2,517	6	169	2,692
	M. Schools	2,415	1,675	10	101	1,786
	H. Schools	1,326	608	10	102	720
	College	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	24,159	18,458	161	1,511	20,130
1961-62	L.P. Schools	17,451	13,850	209	1,484	15,543
	J.B. Schools	2,890	1,212	8	1,357	2,577
	M. Schools	2,706	1,782	10	414	2,206
	H. Schools	1,480	800	30	195	1,025
	College	51	14	—	4	18
	Total	24,583	17,658	267	3,454	21,369
1962-63	L.P. Schools	23,464	17,167	332	3,221	20,700
	J.B. Schools	2,543	1,313	15	948	2,276
	M. Schools	3,158	1,878	24	585	2,487
	H. Schools	1,642	792	46	181	1,019
	College	90	14	2	10	26
	Total	30,897	21,164	419	4,925	26,508
1963-64	L.P. Schools	26,716	21,015	503	2,977	24,495
	J.B. Schools	2,852	1,781	50	843	2,674
	M. Schools	3,620	2,540	70	321	2,931
	H. Schools	1,897	848	40	196	1,084
	College	111	33	2	7	42
	Total	35,196	26,217	665	4,344	31,226
1964-65	L.P. Schools	27,564	21,170	729	2,546	24,415
	J.B. Schools	3,427	1,572	116	926	2,614
	M. Schools	3,941	2,729	88	278	3,095
	H. Schools	1,945	836	47	141	1,024
	College	146	32	3	10	45
	Total	37,023	26,339	983	3,901	31,223

APPENDIX IV.

Age, Sex & Education in all areas of United Mikir & N. C. Hills

Source : District Census Hand Book 1961.

Sl. No.	Age Group	Total Population		Illiterate		Literate (without educational Level)		Primary or Jr. Basic		Educational Level		Matriculation & above	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
i	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	All ages	2,79,726	1,50,127	1,29,599	1,11,328	1,19,616	27,477	7,844	10,271	2,048	1,051	91	..
2.	0-4	47,167	23,823	23,344	23,823	23,344	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3.	5-9	42,299	21,551	20,784	18,137	18,584	2,900	1,883	514	317	..	..	..
4.	10-14	26,429	14,054	12,375	8,581	10,134	3,639	1,714	1,824	526	10	1	..
5.	15-19	22,945	11,436	11,509	6,422	9,883	3,314	1,191	1,673	417	27	18	..
6.	20-24	23,992	11,909	12,083	6,678	10,778	3,292	969	1,716	307	223	29	..
7.	25-29	27,337	14,800	12,537	8,937	11,434	3,991	850	1,581	235	291	18	..
8.	30-34	21,843	12,293	9,550	8,212	8,972	2,926	462	964	106	191	10	..
9.	35-44	29,493	17,491	12,002	12,238	11,485	4,009	429	1,075	77	169	11	..
10.	45-59	23,277	13,959	9,318	10,774	9,023	2,435	246	629	45	121	4	..
11.	60+	14,475	8,558	5,917	7,314	5,803	966	99	260	15	18	..	..
12.	Age not Stated.	469	253	216	212	212	5	1	35	3	1	..	..

CHAPTER—XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES :

SURVEY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES
IN EARLY TIME :

No record concerning medical and public health services in the early times in the district is available. These, in the sense we understand them, may be considered to have been non-existent in the district. The people in the district belonging to tribes at different levels of culture believed in charms and incantations and had faith in propitiating and invoking different gods and spirits as a means of curing sickness. In the Karbi pantheon there are gods like those of *Ajo-ase* (the night fever) *So-memo* (evil pain) etc., which must be propitiated when a man is suffering from those maladies. Sometimes country herbs are also applied for curing the sickman along with propitiation of the spirits. As in other tribal societies the man of medicine occupied an important place.

The western system of medicine was introduced in this region by the Christian Missionaries in the early part of the 20th century. As the district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills came into existence in 1951, incorporating portions of three plains districts and one hill district viz. Sibsagar, Nowgong, Cachar, and United Khasi & Jaintia Hills, the Medical and Public Health administration of these districts looked after the need of the respective portions prior to the formation of the district. But medical and public health facilities in the areas comprising the present district were, however, very meagre and there were but few centres where these were available.

(b) VITAL STATISTICS :

The vital statistics at the lowest level in the rural areas are submitted as a matter of procedure by the village headman to the *Mauzadar*, who in turn compiles his *Mauza* figures and submits them to the Civil Surgeon or the Sub-divisional Medical Officer as the case may be. The tea garden authorities supply their figures directly to the Civil Surgeon or Sub-divisional Medical Officer. In the urban areas, such figures are supplied by the town committees and municipal boards and submitted either to the Civil Surgeon or Sub-divisional officer as the case may. All figures thus collected are finally compiled in the office of the Civil Surgeon for onward transmission to the Govt.

However, the collection of vital statistics in the State is admitted to be defective. The figures indicating the natural increase of population according to vital statistics do not tally with those of the censuses. Nature of population increase is not fully reflected in the vital statistics. It is reported that births are more often omitted than deaths. The main drawback with the collection of vital statistics in the State is that, registration of birth and death is not compulsory except in the tea gardens. Reporting of the birth and death is not an obligation on the part of the house-holders. Its prime collecting agent is *Gaonbura*, a village headman who is very often illiterate, invariably low paid, and burdened with many other duties. The following table shows the figures of vital statistics for the session 1952-1960 :—

Year	Total number of births	Total number of deaths	Total increase of birth over death	Percentage increase of birth over death
1952	303	228	+ 75	24.75
1953	545	237	+ 308	56.51
1954	80	50	+ 30	37.50
1955	551	343	+ 203	36.84
1956	412	239	+ 173	41.99
1957	299	134	+ 165	51.11
1958	327	85	+ 242	74.00
1959	187	34	+ 153	81.82
1960	203	49	+ 154	75.86

Among the important causes of mortality in the fifties, deaths due to malaria were the highest. It was followed by fever, dysentery, diarrhoea, and respiratory diseases. Child birth was also an important cause of death. But due to anti-malarial measures incidence of death due to malaria almost became negligible, only fever, dysentery, diarrhoea, respiratory diseases continued to be the major causes of mortality in the district. The dust nuisance, mal-nutrition, the high humidity of climate, want of requisite minerals in water, are said to be some of the factors that affect the health of the people. The water-borne diseases generally occur after floods in flood-affected areas of the district. The following table shows the selected causes of death in the district.

1. *Census of India 1961, Assam, District Census Handbook, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills, page 316.*

Statement Showing annual deaths from selected causes, during the period 1952 to 1968 in the district.

Causes	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
1. Cholera	—	—	—	179	—	—	—	—	N.A.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Fever	2	26	45	77	157	82	23	22	N.A.	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
3. Small-pox	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Dysentery	6	32	2	1	13	3	10	4	N.A.	2	1	—	2	1	—	2	4
Diarrhoea	5	31	1	2	7	2	—	1	N.A.	2	—	2	1	2	—	—	—
5. Respiratory diseases	1	7	—	—	4	—	—	—	N.A.	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
6. Child birth	177	83	26	34	18	27	—	—	N.A.	—	1	—	1	5	4	4	2
7. Malaria	2	—	—	7	—	13	—	5	N.A.	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
8. <i>Kala-azar</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N.A.	1	3	1	1	1	4	2	3
9. Tubercular diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Snake bite	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Any other diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5	3	8	15	16	17	12

(Figures from the period 1952 to 1959 are taken from the Census of India 1961, Assam, District Census Handbook, United Mikir & North Cachar Hills page 317 and figures for the period 1962 to 1968 are collected from the Offices of the Civil Surgeons, Diphu and Haflong).

(c) **DISEASES COMMON TO THE DISTRICT :**

Leprosy : Leprosy is hyperendemic in the district. It is mainly found in the hills of the Karbi Anglong though cases are not uncommon in the North Cachar Hills also. The prevalence rate as per survey was as high as 1.5 per cent. There are about 4,000 cases under treatment in the treatment centres maintained by the Government. But mortality rate is considered to be low. Generally, the leprosy affected people die of some other inter-current disease. The causes of spreading of this fell disease may be attributed to their unhygienic environment, unclean habits, shabby clothings and ill balanced diet.

Leprosy patients treated in 1962, 1963, and 1968 were 4,493, 6,273 and 4,699 respectively. The introduction of D.D.S. (Dapsone) has revolutionised the treatment of leprosy. The disease is now curable. The patients are given domiciliary treatment. They are allowed to stay in their own houses and do their normal works and at the same time receive treatments at Leprosy Treatment Centres situated nearby their houses. There are about 109 centres functioning in the district with one leprosy worker in each centre. The leprosy worker is advised to treat the leprosy patient who can not come to the centre, at his own house. There is one leprosy colony at Maibong, and two other leprosy colonies at Sonapur and Malasipathar are under construction. The colony admits needy leprosy patients for temporary hospitalisation.² Some social service organisations like the Shreemanta Sankar Mission and Mikir Hills Seva Kendra are taking active part in the leprosy eradication programme. They have established colonies and opened out-door treatment centres. Shreemanta Sankar Mission, Nowgong has established, one 15 bedded leprosy colony at Ouguri and out-door treatment centres at Ouguri, Ghilani, Tumpreng, Borthal, Satgaon, Kumarikata, Bhuragaon and Chapnala. The number of leprosy patient treated in these centres was 601 and 629 during 1967 and 1968 respectively. The Mikir Hills Seva Kendra, Sarihajan, is maintaining one 10 bedded leprosy colony at Sarihajan besides outdoor treatment centre at Balipathar, Saphapani, and upper Deopani. The patients treated in the centres maintained by the Kendra came to 327 and 611 in 1967 and 1969 respectively. The Asom Seva Samiti is also running one leprosy colony at Kuthori and some outdoor treatment centres on the out-skirts of Karbi Anglong.²

Malaria : Malaria is the most important public health problem of the district. It will be evident from the figures that in 1957 out of

² From the report of State Leprosy Office, Gauhati.

66,988 total patients treated in Karbi Anglong, malaria alone accounted for 16,818. Although anti-malarial measures on limited scale was going on for several years, a separate unit under the Malaria Eradication Programme was started only in October, 1957. This unit covers the whole of Karbi Anglong divided into three sub-units with headquarters at Howraghat, Diphu, and Sarupathar. For North Cachar Hills there is another sub-unit at Maibong under the control of Assistant Malaria Officer, Silchar.

D.D.T. spraying operations are carried out by these sub-units in their respective areas twice a year, each spraying operation lasting for a period of three months. In the interval period of spraying operations, assessment work is carried out to find out result of spraying operations. Presumptive and medical treatment are also provided simultaneously. That anti-Malarial operations have yielded good result is evident from the following table :—

Year of Assessment	Spleen rate	Parasite rate	Infant parasite rate	patient treated	patients cured
Assessment result before the operation started in 1957	65.57%	43.8%	47.9%	66,988	16,818
Assessment result after two rounds of D.D.T. operation in 1957	26.3%	9.5%	17.4%	61,591	13,311
Assessment result after 4th round of D.D.T. in 1959	23.3%	6%	7%	73,037	9,434

Malaria is caused due to the introduction of malaria parasite into human blood by Anopheles mosquito. The disease is common almost through out the district, but it is in high rate in the foot-hill areas.

In the annual surveillances carried out in Karbi Anglong by the Diphu unit in 1966, 1967 and 1968, blood smears collected and examined

were 47,721, 40,261 and 41,414. Of these 3,871, 4,558 and 4,432 were positive cases. Number of cases treated during these years respectively came to 1,721, 3,855 and 1,542. The following table shows the achievement of spraying operations in Karbi Anglong in 1968.³

Round	Villages	Houses, human dwellings	Cow-sheds	Population	Consumption of D.D.T.
1st. ..	2,080	1,05,496	59,084	3,32,193	50,194 Lbs.
2nd. ..	881	38,578	18,718	1,52,203	15,514 „
additional round	1,425	52,906	88,890	3,49,070	25,299 „

Typhoid : The disease shows up and down trend over the previous year with a tendency of rise in the recent years but with no death. Anti-typhoid inoculation as a preventive measure against typhoid are given from time to time and T.A.B. Vaccine has been made available in all Government hospitals in the district. The typhoid cases treated are as follows :

Year	Cases treated	Year	Cases treated	Year	Cases treated
1955	7	1960	13	1965	134
1956	14	1961	14	1966	164
1957	8	1962	22	1967	123
1958	9	1963	24	1968	135
1959	26	1964	150		

Tuberculosis : Tuberculosis continues to be a problem in the district as elsewhere. The extent of its prevalence can not be correctly determined in absence of any authoritative survey. Probably majority of the cases remain undetected and untreated and as such the number of T.B. patients treated in hospitals and dispensaries should not be taken as an indicative of its extent. T.B. wards for indoor patients are available in the Civil Hospitals at Haflong and Diphu. The following table will give an idea about the number of T.B. patients treated in the district from 1955 to 1961.

3. All the figures relate to Karbi Anglong only. No detail figures for North Cachar Hills are available.

Year	Number of patients treated	Year	Number of patients treated
1955	159	1962	176
1956	147	1963	127
1957	184	1964	146
1958	208	1965	169
1959	166	1966	200
1960	223	1967	186
1961	180	1968	183

Cholera : The district may be said to be free from cholera epidemic. Only in 1961, two cases of cholera were reported. As preventive measures anti-cholera inoculations are given every year. The following figures will show the inoculation performed :—

Year	persons inoculated	Year	persons inoculated.
1954	1,336	1959	880
1955	10,936	1960	3,013
1956	1,678	1961	9,864
1957	1,914	1962	9,023
1958	1,151	1963	11,551

Small-pox : The district may almost be regarded as free from the small-pox. From 1961 to 1968, only a few cases of attack were reported. The usual vaccination and mass vaccination against small-pox have been performed in the district. The vaccinations are performed by Vaccinators, Sanitary Inspectors, Health Assistants and Rural Health Inspectors. There is a para-Medical Assistant in the district to supervise their works. Leaflets and posters containing instructions to save from the small-pox are widely distributed through field staff and medical institutions. Every year Small-pox Week is observed and mass vaccination programme is taken during the week.

Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Influenza : The incidence of these diseases are maintaining upward trend as indicated by the following figures :—

Year	Dysentery & Diarrhoea	Influenza	Year	Dysentery, Diarrhoea	Influenza
1955	870	271	1962	4,323	2,706
1956	1,326	899	1963	5,262	2,121
1957	2,666	1,996	1964	4,788	1,774
1958	3,831	2,859	1965	5,905	1,663
1959	3,442	2,848	1966	7,092	1,478
1960	4,226	2,920	1967	4,183	1,501
1961	4,182	2,837	1968	5,957	1,666

Goitre : About 3 per cent of the district population is said to be suffering from goitre. It is caused due to the deficiency of required quantity of iodine in the drinking water which causes enlargement of said gland in the neck. There is no fear of mortality from the disease itself except disfigurement of the person suffering from it.

Under the Goitre Control Scheme sponsored by the Govt. of India, two Goitre Treatment Centres in Assam are located at Gouripur in Goalpara district and Diphu in United Mikir & North Cachar Hills District. Jurisdiction of the Goitre Unit, Diphu extends over a number of districts including Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Cachar, Mizo Hills and the United Mikir & North Cachar Hills. The function of the unit is to map out the areas having a large number of goitre cases and after locating such endemic areas to distribute iodized salt among the population for the prevention of goitre. There is, however, no separate dispensary or hospital for the treatment of goitre cases. The goitre patients are treated in general hospitals and dispensaries with other patients.

(d) PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

As mentioned elsewhere, the western system of medicine was introduced into this area by the Christian missionaries who distributed patent medicines to the needy people in the early part of the 20th century. It is not known when the first hospital or dispensary was established in the areas comprising this district but there were only 5 dispensaries and one Civil Hospital at Haflong when the district was constituted on 17th November, 1951. As this district constituted out of portions of the

districts of Sibsagar, Nowgong, Cachar and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the administration of Medical and Public Health Services was carried out from the head-quarters of the aforesaid districts. The Office of the Civil Surgeon was first established at Haflong in the year 1952 but since Diphu was selected as the head-quarter of the district, the Office of the Civil Surgeon was shifted to Diphu in the year 1960 with the construction of the Civil Hospital and staff quarters etc., there.

Previously Public Health and Medical Services were two separate services under the control of the District Medical Officer of Health and the Civil Surgeon respectively at the district level. But now the services are amalgamated together and brought under the control of the Civil Surgeon as the principal medical authority in the district.

There are now three Hospitals, sixteen State Dispensaries, 4 Travelling Dispensaries and nine Primary Health Centres. Of the three Hospitals, two are Civil Hospitals located at Haflong and Diphu and one State Hospital at Maibong. The State Dispensaries are located at Mohendijua, Dolamora, Dengaon, Kolonga, Borgaon, Umpanai, Dhansiri, Baithalangso, Bakulia and Rongpombong in Karbi Anglong and at Harangajao, Garampani, Mahur, Hajadisa, Laisong and Bor-Arkup in North Cachar Hills. Besides, there are eight sub-centres of treatment in the district. Travelling Dispensaries as the name implies mainly cater to the medical needs of the interior areas by frequent visits. These medical institutions are doing effective works in attending curative side of medicine. Side by side with these hospitals and dispensaries, there are nine Primary Health Centres which attend both to the preventive and curative sides of the diseases. The Primary Health Centres are at Howraghat, Bokajan, Donkamukam, Baithalangso and Umpani in Karbi Anglong and at Langting, Mahur and Ganjung in North Cachar Hills. These centres are provided with usual hospital staff.

In 1968, there were twenty one doctors (12 Assistant Surgeon 1 and 9 Assistant Surgeon 11), thirty one Pharmacists, twelve Nurses and twenty one Midwives and two Ayurvedic Physicians serving in the hospitals and dispensaries of the district. The bed strength in Government medical institutions had increased from 25 in 1952 to 142 in 1968. Besides, there is a rural staff consisting of Rural Health Inspectors, Health Assistants and Sanitary Inspectors. They mainly deal with the preventive side of treatment and advise the public on cleanliness, use of good drinking water etc., which help in a large way in avoiding the spread of diseases. They are assisted by seasonal Vaccinators and non-seasonal Vaccinators in giving vaccinations to the people.

Besides State Government hospitals and dispensaries, the North East Frontier Railway (N. F. Rly) is also running two dispensaries at Lower Haflong and Harangajao in North Cachar Hills. There is a proposal to establish another dispensary at Maibong. These dispensaries are for providing medical treatment to the railway employees. Each dispensary is manned by one Doctor and other para medical staff like Dispenser, Hospital Attendants, Sanitary Cleaners and Dressers. There are also emergency beds in the two dispensaries to cope with emergent cases and if any case demands hospitalisation, it is shifted either to the Lumding Divisional Hospital or Badarpur Sub-divisional Hospital for further treatment where all facilities are available.

Maternity, Child Welfare & Family Planning : A separate Bureau for implementation of the Family Planning schemes was started in the district in 1965 under the charge of the District Family Planning Medical Officer. In 1968, Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes were also transferred to this Bureau for better coordination and implementation. Two Static Sterilisation Units are operating under the Bureau at Haflong Civil Hospital and Diphu Civil Hospital. Family Planning Clinics are operating at Howraghat Public Health Centre, Dengaon State Dispensary, Mohindijua State Dispensary, Bokajan Public Health Centre, Baithalangso Public Health Centre, Maibong State Hospital, Garampani State Dispensary and Harangajao State Dispensary. Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are functioning at Dengaon State Dispensary in Karbi Anglong and Laisong State Dispensary in North Cachar Hills. Besides the establishment of these institutions, the Bureau has also undertaken the following two schemes :-

(1) Immunisation of pre-school going children with Triple Vaccine and mothers against tetanus and

(2) Prophylaxes against mal-nutrition among the pre-school going children and mothers.

Orientation Training Camps for village leaders are held once a year in the district to train them into Maternity and Child Welfare and Family Planning Schemes. Family Planning fortnights are usually observed twice a year to gear up performances in the district. The following table shows the achievement of the Family Planning Bureau:-

Schemes.	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69
1. I. U. C. D.	26	290	422	288
2. Vesectomy	1	4	Nil	19
3. Tubectomy	1	3	5	4
4. Conventional contraceptives	218	735	1,034	1,316
5. General meeting	7	19	39	43
6. Cinema show	Nil	26	76	77
7. Group meeting	21	38	53	163
8. Distribution of posters, booklets and leaflets.	455	1,069	2,857	3,514
9. Exhibitions.	Nil	3	8	14

(e) PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES :

The district has eight private dispensaries, two sub-centres of these dispensaries, and one private eye hospital besides the leprosy, colonies and treatment centres described earlier. Of these eight dispensaries, six are run by the management of tea estates, viz., Lengree T.E., Lahorijan T.E., Deopani T.E., Nambarnadi T.E., Bogijan T.E., and Borpathar T.E., and remaining dispensaries are run by the social service organisations, i.e., Shreemanta Sankar Mission, Nowgong, and Mikir Hills Sevakendra, Sariahjan. Shreemanta Sankar Mission, Nowgong is running one Eye Hospital and dispensary at Ouguri. The dispensary at Sariahjan is under the control of the Mikir Hills Sevakendra, Sariahjan. Facilities for beds are available in dispensaries at Deopani and Nambarnadi. These dispensaries cater to the medical needs of the rural people and tea garden labour as most of them are located in the rural areas of the district.

Besides, there are some private doctors, allopathic as well as homeopathic, doing their practices in the district. The numbers of such doctors could not be ascertained.

(f) PROTECTED WATER SUPPLY :

Urban Water Supply Schemes : We have briefly mentioned the water supply arrangement in the two urban areas, i.e., Haflong and Diphu.

The water supply scheme for Diphu in Karbi Anglong is under the execution of the Public Health Engineering Division, Jorhat and the Water Supply Scheme for Haflong is executed by the Public Health Engineering Division, Silchar.

Under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme during the Second Five Year Plan, a water supply scheme was taken up at Diphu, the source of water supply being the deep tube-well with arrangements for distributing the water through gravity mains and overhead tanks. But underground conditions made the D.T.W. (Deep Tube Well) system a complete failure. Water supply from the D.T.W. was insufficient and there was high iron and hydrogen sulphide content in it. These impurities being highly injurious for human beings, the water supply had to be discontinued.

Under the new scheme sanctioned in 1964-65, it is proposed to draw water by pumping from the river Lungi, 30 kms. away from Diphu, by gravity through a 9" dia cast-iron pipe line. The first phase of the scheme which comprise the construction of 130 ft. long R.C.C. pick up weir across the river Lungi at Siloni, treatment plant, laying of raw water pumping main, clear water gravity-main from Siloni to Diphu town with pillars and valve chambers and construction of approach roads etc., is likely to cost Rupees fifty lakhs. The filtered water brought from the Siloni will be stored in two service reservoirs of 10,000 gallons capacity each in the town and will be distributed to the people utilizing the existing distribution system. The second phase of the scheme which will comprise improving the existing distributing system is likely to be sanctioned shortly.

Water supply from the existing water works at Haflong is considered insufficient to meet the requirement of the growing population of the town. A new scheme has been proposed to augment the water supply of the town. Under the scheme water from the Boradolong stream about eleven kms. from Haflong town will be brought down to the town by gravity to the present service reservoir site. Filtered water after disinfection shall be pumped to Bagetar Tilla to cover the higher areas of the town. The rest low lying areas will be covered from existing service reservoir site. Capacity of the proposed service reservoir at Bagetar Tilla will be 15,000 gallons and will meet the requirement of approximately 2,000 souls. The scheme is likely to be completed in 1973-74.

Rural Water Supply Scheme : The Rural Water Supply Schemes such as sinking of tube wells, construction of ring wells etc. in villages are under way in various rural areas of the district. These are mainly constructed under the Public Health Scheme and local development

scheme. The main agencies engaged in the task of rural water supply are Public Health Engineering Department and the District Councils of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. The water supply scheme for Diphu and Haflong are likely to cover some neighbouring rural areas also. But the protected water supply in the hill regions of the district is still a problem. As the villages are generally located in the hill tops, they have to fetch water from the small streams flowing at a low level of 200 to 300 feet. This peculiarity of the hill region combined with the habit of shifting villages in search of new *jhuming* areas or on any other pretext are the main obstacles for the successful implementation of protected water supply schemes in such areas. A brief description of the Rural Water Supply Scheme has already been given in the earlier chapter.

During the Fourth Five Year Plan, emphasis will be on supply of tap water to the rural areas. Survey work of the few such schemes both in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills have already been completed. Bargaon Water Supply Scheme and Baithalangso Water Supply Scheme in Karbi Anglong at a cost of Rs.2,38,000/- and Rs.2,14,000/- respectively have been taken up during the Fourth Plan period. The first will benefit about 1,000 persons. Under this scheme water is proposed to be brought through gravity main from the Suridong stream situated at 4.7 kms from the Bargaon village. There will be R.C.C. dam across the stream and treatment plant will be constructed near the village. Filter water will be distributed to the consumers through G.I. Pipes.

Under the Baithalangso Water Supply Scheme, water is to be tapped from the perennial streams in Tika Hills and flowing into the Barapani river by constructing a R.C.C. intake chamber. The water will then be allowed to flow by gravity through a 6 dia. water main. The treatment plant is proposed to be constructed near the intake point. The water from the treatment plant will gravitate through the underdrainage system to the service reservoir. It will be ground level R.C.C. reservoir with an intake capacity of 7,500 gallons. Other water supply schemes likely to be taken up in the ensuing plan periods in the rural areas of the district are Donkamukam, Bokajan, Bakulia, Taradubi, Kheronighat, Jiridinding, Sariahjan, Barmarjong, Dokmoka, Howaipur, Phuloni and Nambar Adarshagaon.

In the North Cachar Hills, fourteen rural water supply schemes covering 49 villages with a population of 15,024 are proposed to be completed during the Fourth Five Year Plan. Further it is proposed to undertake extensive survey and intensive investigation work including exploration of underground water within the 4th Plan period.

APPENDIX—1

Statement showing the numbers of Leprosy colonies and outdoor centres, indoor and outdoor patients treated and number of beds in the district of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills in 1961.

Name of Colony and Centre	Inpatient treated	Out patient treated	Number of beds
1. Maibong Leprosy Colony	40	—	40
2. Dolamara Dispensary centre	—	81	—
3. Phulani „ „	—	45	—
4. Dengaon „ „	—	98	—
5. Baithalangso „ „	—	35	—
6. Mohindijua „ „	—	50	—
7. Diphu Civil Hospital	—	30	—
8. Dolamara Out-Centre	—	25	—
9. Malasipathar „	—	91	—
10. Dadhara „	—	25	—
11. Kakajan „	—	82	—
12. Kohora „	—	32	—
13. Diring „	—	30	—
14. Longlokse „	—	75	—
15. Somilangso „	—	32	—
16. Sonapur „	—	93	—
17. Bokolia „	—	72	—
18. Jaipung „	—	73	—
19. Bagapani „	—	63	—
20. Dokmoka „	—	22	—
21. Meteka „	—	33	—
22. Kaskok „	—	61	—
23. Osoroserop „	—	21	—
24. Lengri „	—	45	—
25. Amtreng „	—	48	—
	40	1262	40

Name of colony and centre	In patient treated	Out patient treated	Number of beds
Under Sreemanta Sankar Mission			
1. Ouguri Leprosy Colony	20	125	20
2. Kolonga Out Centre	—	219	—
3. Ghilani „	—	115	—
4. Borthal „	—	16	—
5. Tumperang „	—	54	—
6. Kumarikata „	—	30	—
7. Umpanai „	—	35	—
	20	594	20
Under Assam Seva Samiti			
1. Kuthori Leprosy Colony	40	228	40
2. Deopani Out Centre	—	24	—
3. Rongapara „	—	47	—
4. Phulaguri „	—	28	—
5. Shilimkhola „	—	57	—
	40	384	40
Under Mikir Hills Seva Kendra			
1. Sarihajan Leprosy Colony	18	175	20
2. Saphapani Out Centre	—	72	—
3. Upper Deopani „	—	99	—
4. Deopani „	—	110	—
	18	456	20

APPENDIX—II

Distribution of medical personnels in the hospitals and dispensaries of this district in 1961.

Name of the Institutions	A.S.I	A.S.II	Pharma- cist	Sister	Nurse Mid- wife	Labora- tory Asstt.
1. Diphu Civil Hospital	4	1	3	1	6	1
2. Diphu Travelling Dispensary	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Mohindijua State Dispensary	—	1	1	—	—	—
4. Howraghat P.H.C.	1	—	1	—	3	—
5. Rajpathar Sub-Centre	—	—	1	—	—	—
6. Langhing Sub-Centre	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Dengaon State Dispensary	—	—	1	—	1	—
8. Dolamora State Dispensary	—	1	1	—	—	—
9. Deithor Travelling Dispensary	—	1	—	—	—	—
10. Bokajan P.H.C.	1	—	1	—	1	—
11. Dillai Sub-Centre	—	—	1	—	—	—
12. Kolonga State Dispensary	—	—	1	—	—	—
13. Donkamokam P.H.C.	—	—	1	—	—	—
14. Baithalangso P.H.C.	—	1	1	—	1	—
15. Umpanai Dispensary	—	—	1	—	—	—
16. Dhansiri Dispensary	—	—	1	—	—	—
17. Borgaon Dispensary	—	—	1	—	—	—
18. Haflong Civil Hospital	1	1	2	—	2	—
19. Haflong State Dispensary	—	1	—	—	—	—
20. Maibong State Dispensary	—	1	1	—	2	—
21. Maibong Leprosy Colony	—	—	1	—	—	—
22. Langting P.H.C.	—	—	1	—	—	—
23. Gunjung P.H.C.	—	1	1	—	1	—
24. Harangajao State Dispensary	—	1	1	—	1	—
25. Mahur State Dispensary	—	—	1	—	—	—
26. Hajadisa State Dispensary	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Borarkap State Dispensary	—	1	—	—	1	—
28. Laisong State Dispensary	—	1	1	—	—	—

APPENDIX—III

Statement showing the number of beds, indoor and outdoor patients treated and surgical operations etc. in the medical institutions of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district from 1952 to 1961.

Year	No. of beds		No. of indoor patient treated		No. of out door patient treated		No.of death	No. of surgical operation
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1952	25	14	316	149	12,680	4,456	10	3
1953	25	14	457	195	19,932	6,214	11	6
1954	26	18	435	320	34,796	8,922	9	48
1955	26	18	356	148	36,273	10,599	7	104
1956	32	18	448	93	41,619	10,499	10	112
1957	32	20	587	156	53,240	17,944	8	91
1958	36	20	689	192	75,901	19,441	9	75
1959	40	20	818	236	81,249	28,345	8	85
1960	82	48	1,292	462	97,324	25,215	9	161
1961	82	48	1,465	527	1,01,491	31,052	17	162

APPENDIX—IV

Statement showing the facilities available in private medical institutions of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district, 1961.

Sl. No.	Name of private institutions	No. of dispensaries	No. of beds.	No. of doctors	No. of midwives	No. of nurses	Any other medical personnel
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Lengree T.E.	1	—	—	—	—	1 Compounder
2.	Lahorijan & Nirmal Kumar T.E.	1	—	1	—	—	1 Dresser
3.	Deopani T.E.	1	10	1	—	1	1 Compounder
4.	Nambornadi T.E.	1	12	1	1	1	1 Do
5.	Bogijan T.E.	1	—	1	—	1	1 Do
6.	Borpathar T.E.	1	—	1	—	1	—
7.	Shankar Mission						
	(1) Eye Hospital, Ouguri	1 Eye Hospital	25	7	3	2	2
	(2) Leprosy Colony at Ouguri	1 Leprosy Colony	20	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	(3) Dispensaries at (a) Ouguri, (b) Tumpreng, (c) Ghilani, (d) Kumarkata	4 Dispensaries.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
8.	Mikir Hills Seva Kendra						
	(1) Leprosy Colony at Sarupathar	1 Leprosy Colony	20	1	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	(2) Preventoria at Sarihajan	1 Preventoria	—	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	(3) Dispensary at Soriahajan	1 Dispensary	—	1	—	—	—
	(4) Out-Centres at Saphapani, Deopani Upper, Balipathar	3 Out-centres	—	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
9.	Assam Seva Samity						
	(1) Leprosy Colony at Kuthori.	1 Leprosy Colony	40	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	(2) Out centres at Deopani, Rangapara, Phulani and Sitenkhown	4 Out-centres.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

APPENDIX—V

Statement showing patients treated in private medical institutions in United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district—1961-1963

Sl. No.	Name of private institutions	No. of Indoor patient treated			No. of Outdoor patient treated		
		1961	1962	1963	1961	1962	1963
1.	Lengree T.E.	—	—	—	130	140	160
2.	Lahorijan & Nirmal Kumar T.E.	—	—	—	1,556	1,651	1,125
3.	Deopani T.E.	33	32	13	1,611	1,594	1,723
4.	Nambornadi T.E.	232	248	296	3,951	3,541	4,426
5.	Bogijan T.E.	—	—	—	593	553	301
6.	Borpathar T.E.	—	—	—	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
7.	Shankar Mission						
(1)	Eye Hospital, Ouguri	169	280	331	4,962	5,162	5,303
(2)	Leprosy Colony at Ouguri	17	19	19	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
(3)	Dispensaries at (a) Ouguri, (b) Tumpreng (c) Ghilani (d) Kumarkata	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	7,980	8,394	9,352
8.	Mikir Hills Seva Kendra						
(1)	Leprosy Colony at Sarupathar	20	20	20	N.A.	518	—
(2)	Preventoria at Sarihajan						
(3)	Dispensary at Soriahajan.						
(4)	Out-centres at Saphapani, Deopani Upper, Balipathar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	6,183	
9.	Assam Seva Samity						
(1)	Leprosy Colony at Kuthori	40	N.A.	N.A.	228	N.A.	—
(2)	Out centres at Deopani, Rangapara, Phulani and Sitenkhown.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

APPENDIX—VI

Statement showing the allocation of rupees in the district for Rural Water Supply Scheme.

Name of sub-division	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
Karbi Anglong	79,289	21,245	47,343	1,39,925 ¹	79,502
North Cachar Hills	15,144	21,433	28,600	13,622	2,143
Total—	94,433	42,678	75,943	1,53,547	81,645

Includes Rs.91000/-
allotted to District
Council Karbi Anglong¹

CHAPTER—XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

PROHIBITION : We begin this chapter with prohibition as labour welfare measures have been discussed in some detail in the chapter on Industry. Prohibition of opium, *Bhang* and *Ganja* has been enforced in the district under the Assam Prohibition of Opium Act 1947, and Assam *Ganja* and *Bhang* Prohibition Act 1948 respectively. Liquor Prohibition has not yet been introduced in the district.

Opium : Though opium prohibition is in force since 1948, the cases of opium addicts are not rare among the hill tribes of the district specially among the Karbis. Opium is generally consumed in the form of pills or mixed with water and drunk. *Pankani* is made by mixing boiled opium with pieces of dried *parleaf* and stirring it over the fire. The compound is then rolled up into pills and smoked. The total opium revenue raised per head of population in North Cachar Hills (excluding persons censused on the railways) in the year 1902-3, was Rs. 2/3/9 *annas* compared with Rs. 1/4/- per head in the plains. The quantity of opium sold was 31 *mds.* 6 *seers* and 25 *mds.* 26 *seers* in the year 1902-3 and 1903-4 respectively.¹

Prior to 1860 there was no restriction on the cultivation of poppy plant. The evil effects of unrestrained indulgence could not, however, go unnoticed and in that year poppy cultivation was prohibited in Assam and the drug was issued from the Government treasury for the use of addicts, the charges being Rs.14/- a *seer*. This was raised to Rs. 20/- per *seer* in 1862 and gradually to Rs.37/-. In 1890, while Assam was under the Bengal Govt. licences for retail vending of opium were issued free of charge. In 1874, a fee of Rs.12/- per annum was charged from each licensee and in the following year it was raised to Rs.16/-. Later on, the right to sell opium in particular *mahals* was put-up to auction. The heavy excise-duty accompanied with the curtailment of facilities for the purchase of opium has a repressive effect on its consumption.

1. 1 *anna* equal to present 6 *paise*,
16 *annas* equal to one 1 *rup.e*
12 *pies* equal to one *anna*,
40 *seers* equal to one *maund* or 37.324 Kg.
1 *Seer* equal to 0.93310 Kg.

Now there is total opium prohibition since the enactment of the Assam Opium Prohibition Act, 1948. No person shall import, export, transfer or possess, sell or buy or consume opium, use or keep material, utensils, implements or apparatus, whatsoever for the manufacture of any opium smoking, preparation of any drug containing opium. The exception is made in case of a shop or place licensed for the sale of opium for medical purposes or to any person who buys opium from a place or shop as aforesaid under a prescription from a registered medical practitioner or any hospital or dispensary. There were only 44 licensees who used to get opium for consumption on medical grounds in the North Cachar Hills. With a view to have a total prohibition, the issuing of opium to these licensees has also been stopped with effect from 1.4.59. There are two opium Addicts Treatment Centres opened in the year 1963 for providing treatment to persons addicted to opium in the district. Both the centres are in the Karbi Anglong located at Diphu and Baithalangso. In 1963, Diphu centre admitted 82 addicts out of which 66 were treated and Baithalangso centre admitted 55 addicts of which 43 were treated and 12 absconded. Both the centres are managed by non-official bodies under the over all supervision of the Prohibition Commissioner. The expenditure of these centres are met by the Govt. under the head, Excise and Prohibition Propaganda. To enlist non-official support to exercise an affective control over smuggling of opium and eradicate the opium addiction, Opium Prohibition Committee were formed at Baithalangso in Karbi Anglong and Haflong in North Cachar Hills. Opium Treatment Centres were opened at three places and addicts were given free lodging, fooding and medical treatment there.

Ganja and Bhang : The prohibition of *Bhang* and *Ganja* is in force in the district under the Assam *Ganja* and *Bhang* Act 1958 which came into force in May 1959. Under the Act, no person shall cultivate, collect or sell and buy or possess or consume and keep or use any implement or apparatus for manufacture and consumption of *Ganja* and *Bhang*. The cases of *Ganja* and *Bhang* are very few in the district. These are mostly consumed by the up-country men and local people practically have no inclination towards it. *Ganja* is mainly smuggled from Nagaland and Manipur.

Liquor : Liquor prohibition is not in force in the district. Prior to 1st January, 1926 when the Eastern Bengal and Assam Act I of 1910 was made applicable to the areas comprising the present district, there was no restriction on the consumption and distillation of liquor, but since then distillation of liquor is totally prohibited except under a licence. In

1968, there were 26 out-stills, 5 country spirit and 2 foreign liquor shops in the district. All the outstills are located mainly in Block 1 and Block 11 *Mauzas*. They distill their own products and sell within the limits of their premises. Out of the five country spirit shops two were in Karbi Anglong and three in the North Cachar Hills. Foreign liquor shops were at Diphu in Karbi Anglong and Haflong in North Cachar Hills. The consumption of the country spirit in the district is gradually on the increase. The following table shows consumption of the country spirit and revenue realised there from since 1958-59 to 1968-69 :—

year	Consumption in L. P. Gallons		Vendor Licence in Rupees	
	K.A.	N.C.	K.A.	N.C.
1	2	3	4	5
1958-59	3,425	3,818	9,957.60	13,512.20
1959-60	3,956	3,787	11,602.79	13,419.00
1960-61	8,407	4,419	25,253.25	15,538.00
1961-62	3,581	36,253	9,308.76	—
1962-63	17,872	31,132	12,730.53	16,319.94
1963-64	21,202	34,606	13,209.00	18,091.38
1964-65	17,290	23,898	11,668.60	18,076.68
1965-66	21,085	25,206	14,086.20	19,221.52
1966-67	20,930	25,615	14,012.00	16,402.68
1967-68	25,050	21,991	24,797.25	18,254.72
1968-69	18,230	23,704	10,374.00	17,734.57
Total				
Duty in Rupees				
K.A.	N.C.	K.A.	N.C.	Total
6	7	8	9	10
80,180.26	92,225.67	90,137.86	1,05,746.87	1,95,884.73
98,279.45	94,506.96	1,09,882.24	1,67,919.96	2,77,802.20
2,09,531.00	1,11,825.00	2,34,784.25	1,27,363.00	3,62,147.25
87,746.75	1,15,937.50	97,055.57	1,31,377.00	2,28,432.57
96,495.18	1,20,115.13	1,09,225.71	1,36,435.07	2,45,660.78
1,21,833.80	1,38,447.19	1,35,047.80	1,56,538.57	2,91,581.37
1,10,599.95	1,59,749.90	1,22,268.55	1,77,826.58	3,00,095.13
1,37,541.21	1,64,668.63	1,51,627.41	1,84,390.15	3,36,017.56
1,60,533.10	1,74,009.63	1,74,545.10	1,80,412.31	3,54,957.41
1,92,133.50	1,76,841.76	2,16,930.75	1,95,096.48	4,12,027.23
1,40,361.00	1,92,541.88	1,59,735.00	2,10,276.45	3,70,011.45

Distillation of *Laopani* or rice beer which is a national drink of the unconverted tribes of the district is exempted from the above Act. It is called '*Horlong*' or '*Rohi*' in Karbi and '*Zu*' in Naga dialects. The following is the usual system of manufacturing *Laopani*. The rice is boiled and spread on a mat and '*bakhar*' (*Thap* in Karbi) is powdered and sprinkled over it. After about twelve hours, it is transferred to an earthen jar, the mouth of which is closed and left to ferment for three or four days. Water is then added and allowed to stand for a few hours and beer is at last considered to be ready. The usual proportions are 5 *seers* of rice and 3 *Chattaks* of *bakhar* to half a *kulsi* of water and the content produced is said to be much stronger than most European beers. Liquor is also sometimes illicitly distilled from *Laopani* or boiled rice. An earthen pot with a hole in the bottom is placed on the top of the vessel containing *laopani* or rice beer and the whole is set on the fire. The mouth of the upper pot is closed by a cone-shaped vessel filled with cold water and a saucer is placed at the bottom of the pot over the hole. The vapour rises into the upper of the two jars, condenses against the cold cone with which the mouth is closed, and falls in the form of spirit on to the saucer beneath. Care must of course, be taken to see that the various cracks are closed against the passage of the spirituous vapour and this can be easily done with strips of clothing.

Excise Case : There has not been a uniform trend in the number of excise cases. From 1958-59 there is a slight downward trend upto 1960-61 and then it rose almost to three times in 1965-66. Since then there is a slight fall every year. Following table shows the numbers of cases and persons convicted in excise offences in the district since 1958 to 1968 :

Year	Karbi Anglong		North Cachar Hills		Total of the district	
	No of cases instituted.	No of persons convicted	No of cases instituted.	No of persons convicted.	No of cases instituted.	No of persons convicted.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1958	151	46	47	32	198	78
1959	149	114	26	13	175	127
1960	158	112	39	31	197	243
1961	210	180	49	48	259	223
1962	284	239	42	31	326	270
1963	295	258	36	23	331	281
1964	364	347	56	13	420	360
1965	627	437	37	23	664	460
1966	465	370	42	28	507	398
1967	438	282	34	27	472	309
1968	352	154	28	25	380	179

The Excise Department is responsible for the implementation of the Prohibition Policy of the Govt. and other Excise Acts. Prior to 1956, the Excise Department in the district was under the control of one Sub-Deputy Collector with one Inspector of Excise at Diphu and another at Haflong. The post of Deputy Superintendent of Excise was created in 1956 and subsequently in 1964 upgraded to the Superintendent of Excise. The Office of the Superintendent is amalgamated with the Office of the Deputy Commissioner. The Superintendent of Excise is the head of the Department at the district and works under the direct supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. There are three Inspectors of Excise in-charge of circles and five Patrol Parties in Karbi Anglong and one Inspector of Excise and three Patrol Parties in North Cachar Hills. The Department of Excise is one of the important revenue earning department. The following table shows the revenue collected from the Excise in the district since 1958 to 1968 :---

Year	Karbi Anglong	North Cachar Hills	Total
1	2	3	4
1958	95,137.86	1,13,321.32	2,08,459.18
1959	1,15,082.24	1,09,897.46	2,24,949.70
1960	2,42,543.50	1,29,198.00	3,71,741.50
1961	1,03,639.01	1,35,962.75	2,39,601.76
1962	1,16,258.33	1,37,638.08	2,53,891.41
1963	1,42,251.74	1,57,761.22	3,00,012.96
1964	1,31,271.93	1,80,845.77	3,12,117.70
1965	1,60,320.81	1,96,821.67	3,57,142.48
1966	2,11,695.79	1,93,398.71	4,05,094.50
1967	2,26,537.20	2,23,754.45	4,50,291.65
1968	1,81,503.72	2,45,101.06	4,26,604.78

ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND TRIBES :- The description 'Backward classes' is commonly applied to the following sections of population :-

1. Scheduled Tribes
2. Scheduled Castes
3. Communities formerly described as criminal tribes
4. Others socially and educationally backward classes.

There is no community known as criminal tribe in Assam. The district is predominantly inhabited by the scheduled tribes and according to the Census of 1961 both scheduled tribes and scheduled castes constituted seventy-eight per cent of the total population of the district. The population of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes according to the Census of 1961 was as follows :-

	Male	Female	Total
Scheduled Tribes	1,10,699	1,00,632	2,11,331
Scheduled Castes	3,741	3,048	6,789
Total	1,14,440	1,03,680	2,18,120

People belonging to Bansphor, Bhuinmali or Mali, Brittial-Bania or Bania, Dhupi or Dhobi, Hira, Jalkeot, Jhalo, Malo or Jhalo-Malo, Kaibarta or Jaliya, Mahara, Mehtar or Bhangri, Muchi or Rishi, Namasudra, Patni, and Sutradhar are the scheduled castes communities in the district. Of these communities, Namasudra alone accounted for 4,375. The strength of other communities were Dhupi 363, Mali 247, Muchi 195, Bania 128, Patni 103, Jhalo 83, Hira 80, Sutradhar 67, Mahara 36, Mehtar 22, Jalkeot 11 and Bansphor 10.

Among the scheduled tribes of the district were Karbi, Dimasa Kachari, Garo, Hmar, Khasis and Jaintia, Kuki, Mizo, and Naga tribes. The Karbis who numbered 1,16,887, constituted more than 50 per cent of the scheduled tribes population of the district. The Dimasa Kachari who comes next numbered 67,284. The other scheduled tribes of the district were Nagas 8,338, Kukis, 7,50, Hmar 4,131, Khasis and Janitias 3,931, Garos 3,326 and Mizos 284.

Though there exists no organisation particularly for the advancement of the scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other backward classes at the district, the economic development and social welfare schemes, undertaken during the three Plan periods in the district, have mainly benefitted the predominant population of the scheduled tribes. Though separate plans for economic and social welfare of the scheduled tribes and backward classes are provided, schemes under this head are executed along with other development schemes under the plan by the same agency.

The advancement of the scheduled tribes engaged the attention of the Britishers in the pre-Independence era. It was only to safeguard

their interests in land and save them from the exploitation of more advanced communities that the Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills areas were constituted into the three "Partially Excluded Areas" under Nowgong, Sibsagar and Cachar districts. But little or no thought was given by the Govt. for the promotion of the economic and social welfare of these people. This had an adverse effect on the tribal people. This policy of isolation erected an iron curtain around them which shut-out all contact with the other people of Assam. As a result they remained less developed economically and socially. Their needs and aspirations were not known to others beyond the confines of their inhabitation. Whatever little welfare activities reached the people came from the Christian missionaries. Their activities were mostly confined to the establishment of educational institutions, particularly in the Christian villages.

It was only after Independence that attempts were made to bring an all round development of the standard of living of the people belonging to the backward classes. Incorporation of the Sixth Schedule in the Constitution of India which provides for the constitution of the Autonomous Districts, with an administrative set up of its own, in itself is a great achievement especially for the hill tribes. With the formation of District Council which have been given a fair share of autonomy in the management of affairs relating to tribal upliftment, things have gradually taken a better shape for the promotion of economic and social welfare of these people. The activities of the District Councils and other developing departments have been well described in the earlier chapters.

One of the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution of India solemnly declares that the State shall promote with special care education, social and economic interests of the weaker section of the people, in particular scheduled tribes and scheduled castes and shall protect them from social injustice and exploitation. Article 275 of the Constitution of India provides for grants-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the cost of development schemes taken up for the welfare of the backward classes.

In pursuance of the provisions of Articles 16 (4) and 335 of the Constitution of India, the Government of Assam decided that there should be reservation of vacancies for members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in making appointments to services in connection with the affairs of the State Government as indicated below :-

Scheduled Castes	7 per cent.
Scheduled Tribes (Plains)	10 per cent
Scheduled Tribes (Hills)	12 per cent.

Prior to August 1963 only five per cent of posts was reserved for the scheduled castes. This policy of reservation of vacancies has been followed by all the departments in making appointments to services or posts of the State Government subject to other terms and conditions as laid down in the State Government Notification No.AAP./66/63/482 dt. August 24th 1973. Resevsation of seats also exists in all other educational and technical institutions of the State. The Government of India has also prescribed certain reservation quotas for the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes in making appointments to services and posts under the Government of India and autonomous bodies etc., as well as in the technical and educational institutions under it.

Reservation of seats also exists in the State Legislative Assembly and House of the People. All the four Legislative Assembly Constituencies of the district are reserved for the tribal people. The Parliamentary Constituency which the district shares with U.K. & J. Hills, is also a reserved constituency for the tribal.

Prior to Independence, there was no motorable road except some bridle paths in the district and journeys had to be undertaken on foot. With the opening of the two Public Works Divisions a number of motorable roads have been constructed, besides the village roads constructed by the District Councils and Community Development Blocks on self-help basis. Agricultural Demonstration Farms have been established for dissemination of scientific methods of cultivation of food and cash crops and improved manurial practices. Schemes are taken up for reclamation of lands and terrace cultivation by the Agricultural and Soil Conservation Department for making them fit for wet rice cultivation and permanent rehabilitation of the tribes who are in the habit of moving from place to place with shifting of their *jhums*. Soil Conservation Department have also introduced the cultivation of permanent cash crops like coffee cashewnuts, black-pepper, rubber etc. The cultivators are also helped with a supply of improved agricultural tools, implements, and fertilizers at subsidised rates. Minor as well as medium size irrigation schemes are under execution to provide perennial supply of water to the agricultural fields. Co-operative societies are also organised to foster the spirit of self help, thrift, and co-operation among the people in the district.

Construction of ring-wells and tube-wells and other rural water supply schemes are under way in the various villages of the district. A number of dispensaries and public health centres have been established in the farflung areas of the district, Intensive programmes to fight malaria and leprosy are under way in the district.

The educational institutions grew up very fast in the district and percentage of literacy which was 5.87 in 1951, went up to 16.77 in 1961. Vocational training centres besides, a Toy Production-cum-Training Centre at Diphu, have been opened up in some of the Community Development Blocks where the trainees belonging to the scheduled tribes and scheduled casts are given stipends for the duration of the training period. A technical school is also established at Diphu. Adult education centres have been organised in the villages. A limited number of community listening sets have also been installed in the villages. Liberal grants are made to the social service organisations engaged in the welfare work of the tribal people.

Students of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are exempted from payment of fees upto the high school stage. There are provisions for the payment of lump-sum grants for the purchase of books and scholarships at all stages of education for the students of these communities depending upon merit basis. A concession of 7 per cent is also given to a candidate of these communities in the construction work upto Rs. 35,000/- by Public Works Department and other agencies.

The following organisations are doing extensive welfare work in the district.

1. Shreemanta Sankar Mission, Nowgong.
2. Asom Seva Samity, Gauhati.
3. Mikir Hills Seva kendra, Sarihajau.
4. Diphu branch of Asom Sahitya Sabha, Jorhat.

CHAPTER - XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

(a) REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE STATE AND UNION LEGISLATURES :-

Legislative Assembly : Prior to the creation of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district, the Mikir Hills Tracts in both the Nowgong and Sibsagar districts used to form a Single Member Reserved Assembly Constituency. The First General Elections of Independent India were held in 1952. The United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district was divided into three Assembly Constituencies i.e., Mikir Hills East, Mikir Hills West and North Cachar Hills. The seats from these Single Member Constituencies were reserved for scheduled tribe candidates only. Of these the Karbi Anglong comprised two constituencies of Mikir Hills East and Mikir Hills West and the whole of North Cachar Hills constituted one Assembly Constituency. There was no change in these constituencies in the General Elections of 1957, and 1962. There after the constituencies in the Karbi Anglong were delimited and increased to three in the General Elections of 1967 under the name Bokajan, Howraghat and Baithalangso. The whole of the North Cachar Hills continued to constitute single constituency and the name was changed to Hallong Constituency. All the four constituencies were reserved for scheduled tribes candidates only.

House of the People : Till the formation of Meghalaya in 1970, for the purpose of elections to the House of the People (*Lok Sabha*), the whole of the district along with the district of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills formed a Single Member Parliamentary Constituency reserved for scheduled tribe candidates only. The present, Autonomous District *Lok Sabha* Constituency covers only Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills area.

(b) POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR HOLD IN THE DISTRICT AS REFLECTED IN THE ELECTIONS :

Legislative Assembly : The elections to the Legislative Assembly indicates that the Indian National Congress has dominated the political

scene of this district throughout. In the first two General Elections, the contest was between the Indian National Congress and Independent Candidates. In the Third General Elections, All Party Hill Leaders Conference entered the arena by putting up candidates in all the three constituencies. This party also contested the Fourth General Elections by putting up candidates in three constituencies out of four constituencies in the district but could not win a single seat in either of the General Elections. An analysis of the performance of political parties and independent candidates in different elections is given below :

In the General Elections of 1952, of the three elected representatives, two belonged to the Indian National Congress and one was an Independent Candidate. All the three seats were contested but the Indian National Congress did not put up candidate in the North Cachar Hills Constituency and the contests in this Constituency was between the two Independent Candidates. One Independent Candidate who polled 3,674 votes i.e., 56.3 per cent of the total valid votes, won the seat. The second Independent Candidate polled 2,843 (43.6%) out of the total valid votes of 6,519. In the other two constituencies there was a triangular contest. The Indian National Congress won both the seats by polling 5,617 (56.7%) and 8,485 (56.7%) votes out of the total valid votes of 9,895 and 14,839 polled in the constituencies of Mikir Hills West and Mikir Hills East respectively. The two Independent Candidates in Mikir Hills West Constituency respectively polled 1,835 (18.5%) and 2,443 (24.6%) votes out of the total valid votes polled. The votes secured by Independent Candidates in Mikir Hills East Constituency came to 4,186 (28.01%) and 2,168 (14.5%).

During the Second General Elections held in 1957, two seats were bagged by the Independent candidates and one seat was bagged by the Indian National Congress. In the North Cachar Hills Constituency there was a straight contest between the Indian National Congress Candidate and Independent Candidate. The latter won the seat by polling 5,135 votes (57.64%) against his rival who polled 3,773 votes (42.36%) out of the total valid votes of 8,909. The Mikir Hills West Constituency had three claimants, one Congress and two Independents. The Indian National Congress Candidate won the seat and secured 6,485 votes (72.77%) of the total valid votes polled. The two Independent Candidates respectively polled 1,694 votes (19.01%) and 733 votes (8.22%). In the Mikir Hills East Constituency there were four candidates, one belonged to Indian National Congress and three Independents. One of the Independent Candidate defeated his nearest Congress rival by a margin of 2,027

votes. The votes polled by other Independent Candidates were 1,392 and 1,137 respectively out of the total valid votes of 12,734.

In the third General Elections of 1952, All party Hill Leaders Conference entered the field but could not win any seat. All the three seats from the district were captured by the Indian National Congress. In the Constituencies of North Cachar Hills and Mikir Hills West, there was straight contest between the Indian National Congress and All party Hill Leaders Conference. The former's candidates polled 5,708 votes (50.6%) and 10,020 votes (61.6%) against the latter's 5,693 votes (49.99%) and 5,169 votes (31.7%) out of the total valid votes of 11,401 and 15,189 in the constituencies of North Cachar Hills and Mikir Hills West. Like the previous election, Mikir Hills East Constituency again had four cornered contest. The Indian National Congress won the seat by securing 7,059 votes (39.6%) out of the total valid votes of 16,181. The votes polled by All Party Hill Leaders Conference was only 2,163 (12.2%). The other two contestants were Independent who polled 4,750 votes (26.6%) and 2,209 votes (12.4%).

During the Fourth General Elections, the number of assembly constituencies increased to four and renamed as Haflong, Bokajan, Howraghat and Baithalangso. The whole of North Cachar Hills continued to comprise one constituency, only renamed as Haflong Assembly Constituency. The remaining three assembly constituencies fell within Karbi Anglong. In this General Elections, Indian National Congress demonstrated its complete sway over the district by occupying all the four assembly seats. There were dual contests in all the four constituencies. In the three constituencies of Haflong, Bokajan and Baithalangso, the contest was between Indian National Congress and All Party Hill Leaders Conference and the Indian National Congress Candidates polled 9,934, (65.18%), 12,255 (67.08%) and 11,930 (78.55%) votes against his rival who polled 5,307 (34.82%), 6,015 (32.92%) and 4,291 (26.45%) votes respectively out of the total valid votes polled in the constituencies. In the fourth constituency of Howraghat, Indian National Congress Candidate polled 12,876 (70.95%) against 5,271 (29.05%) votes polled by his independent rival candidate.

In 1972, All Party Hill Leaders Conference which was predominated by the Khasis, lost hold in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills and none from this party contested the General Elections of 1972 for Assam Legislative Assembly from this district. The Indian National Congress proved to be the only political party in the district in 1972 and from

Haflong Constituency, the Congress Candidate returned uncontested while all the Independent Candidates contesting in all of the three remaining constituencies in the district were defeated returning the Congress Candidates by overwhelming majority of votes.

The following table shows the results of the last five General Elections in the district :—

General Elections	Name of the Constituency	No. of contesting candidates	No. of electors	Total valid votes polled in the constituency.
1	2	3	4	5
1952	North Cachar Hills.	2	19,986	6,517
	Mikir Hills West.	3	33,063	9,895
	Mikir Hills East.	3	34,589	14,839
1957	North Cachar Hills.	2	21,329	8,908
	Mikir Hills West.	3	35,578	8,912
	Mikir Hills East.	4	40,410	12,734
1962	North Cachar Hills.	2	23,181	11,408
	Mikir Hills West.	2	41,952	15,189
	Mikir Hills East.	4	48,399	16,181
1967	Haflong.	2	27,645	15,241
	Bokajan.	2	38,383	18,270
	Howraghat.	2	35,644	18,147
	Baithalangso.	2	37,753	16,221
1972	Haflong.	1	33,426	—
	Bokajan.	2	53,697	22,447
	Howraghat.	2	50,563	28,427
	Baithalangso.	4	53,394	24,470

Votes		polled by		Name of the party who gained the seat.		
Congress	APHLC	Independents				
Total votes	Percentage	Total votes	Percentage	Total votes	Percentage.	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
—	—	Nil	Nil	(a)3,674	56.3	Independent
				(b)2,843	4.36	
5,617	56.7	Nil	Nil	(a)1,835	18.5	Congress.
				(b)2,443	24.6	
8,485	56.7	Nil	Nil	(a)4,186	28.01	Congress.
				(b)2,168	14.5	
3,773	42.36	Nil	Nil	5,135	57.64	Independent.
6,485	72.77	Nil	Nil	(a)1,694	19.01	
				(b) 733	8.22	Congress
4,089	32.11	Nil	Nil	(a)6,116	48.03	
				(b)1,137	8.93	Independent.
				(c)1,392	10.93	
5,708	50.06	5,693	49.99	—	—	Congress.
10,020	61.6	51,69	31.7	—	—	
7,059	39.6	2,163	12.2	(a)4,750	26.6	Congress.
				(b)2,209	12.4	
9,934	65.18	5,307	34.82	—	—	Congress.
12,255	67.08	6,015	32.92	—	—	
12,876	70.95			5,271	29.05	Congress.
11,930	73.55	4,291	26.45			
—	—					Congress.
15,981	71.19	„	—	6,466	28.81	Congress.
20,119	75.76	„	—	6,438	24.24	Congress.
15,726	69.00	„	—	(a) 856	3.76	Lost security. Congress.
				(b)4,587	20.13	
				(c)1,621	7.11	
						Lost security.

At present there are 5 Assembly Constituencies in the bifurcated district with formation of a new assembly constituency at Baithalangso.

House of the People : As stated earlier, the whole of the district of United Mikir & North Cachar Hills along with the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills formed one *Lok Sabha* Constituency termed as Autonomous District S.T. Parliamentary Constituency. In the First General Elections there were three candidates for the seat, one each belonged to Indian National Congress, Hills People Party and Khasi Jaintia Durbar. The Indian National Congress won the seat and votes polled by the three candidates respectively were 59,320, 17,350 and 32,987 out of the total valid votes of 1,09,663. In the next General Elections, the Indian National Congress conceded defeat to Eastern India Tribal Union whose candidate polled 58,428 votes (49.86%) out of the total valid votes of 1,17,177. The Indian National Congress and Hills Union respectively polled 40,580 (34.63%) votes and 18,169 (15.5%) votes. All Party Hill Leaders Conference wrested this seat in the General Elections of 1962 and retained the same in 1967 General Elections also. Its candidates polled 91,850 votes and 1,12,492 votes against his nearest rival Congress Candidate who polled 56,701 and 70,819 in the General Elections of 1962 and 1967. From 1972 onward, the *Lok Sabha* seat in the Autonomous Districts Constituency has been retained by INC and the APHLC lost its hold there. The following table shows the details of last four General Elections of the Autonomous Districts S.T. Parliamentary Constituency :—

General Elections	No. of Electorates	Total valid votes polled	Indian National Congress votes.	%	Hills People Party votes.	%	Khasi & Jaintia Durbar votes.	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1952	3,60,630	1,09,663	59,326	N.A	17,350	N.A	32,987	N.A
1957	3,93,735	1,17,177	40,580	34.63	—	—	—	—
1962	3,20,132	1,48,551	56,701	N.A	—	—	—	—
1967	3,71,287	1,83,311	70,819	38.63	—	—	—	—
E.I.T.U.		Hills Union		APHLC		Name of the party winning the seat.		
Votes.	%	votes	%	votes	%			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
						Indian National Congress.		
						E.I.T.U.		
58,428	49.86	18,169	15.51	—	—	A.P.H.L.C.		
				91,850	—	A.P.H.L.C.		
				1,12,492	61.37			

(c) **NEWSPAPERS :**

The habit of newspaper reading is not much cultivated by the people of this district. It is limited to a section of the people living in the town or serving in the government offices. This may be mainly attributed to the low percentage of literacy and poverty. Underdeveloped means of communication and lack of postal facilities in the interior areas of the district are the other hindrances in cultivating the habit of reading. Literacy which stands at 17.4 per cent according to the Census of 1961 is the lowest among the districts of Assam. Moreover, most of the newspapers and periodicals, being published in languages other than their own, the people do not feel encouraged to read them. So whatever papers are in circulation in the district are not sufficient to create any political complexion among the people.

Almost all the newspapers and weeklies circulated at different places in the district are published outside the district. These papers are mostly in English and Assamese languages and a few in Bengali and Hindi. Prominent among the dailies are The Assam Tribune, The Natan Assamiya, the Times of India, The Hindustan Standard, The Statesman, The Amrita Bazar Patrika, Asom Batori, Jugantar, and Vishwamitra. Among the weeklies and bi-weeklies are Asom Bani, Blitz, Current Janambhumi, Illustrated Weekly of India, Ganatantra, Janambhumi, Jugadharama etc. The Assam Tribune and the Assam Bani have the highest circulation in the district.

There are no newspapers published in the district, only a fortnightly newspaper named '*Pirthe-Kimi*' in Karbi dialect in Assamese script was published from Diphu but after a few months of its publication was discontinued. The Hmar literary Society at Haflong is also publishing a fortnightly paper named *Palai* (in Hmar dialect in Roman script).

(d) **VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS :**

Inhabited mainly by tribal people at various levels of cultural and social development Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills provide a virgin field for philanthropic and humanitarian work. There are a few voluntary social service organisations working for the advancement of the tribal people and other backward classes in the district. Notably among them are the Mikir Hills Sevakendra, Sariahjan, the Shreemanta Shankar Mission, Nowgong, Presbyterian Mission, Haflong, and the Ramkrishna Mission, Haflong. A brief review of the activities of each of these social service organisations are as follows :-

The Mikir Hills Sevakendra Sariahjan : The Mikir Hills Sevakendra was established on 3rd February, 1969 at Sariahjan with a view to serve the Karbi and other tribal people living in the district and other adjacent areas of Sibsagar district and Nagaland State. The place is surrounded by a large number of Karbi and other tribal villages on the eastern slopes of the Karbi Anglong. The scheme was originally devised by Late Rev. Thakkur Bapa. The institute is now affiliated to the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangha, Delhi and is managed by an Executive Committee of eleven members. Since the time of its inception it has expanded its scope of service undertaking manifold activities for tribal people such as spread of education, medical aid, and economic activities for raising the standard of living of the tribal people.

Since its inception 30 primary schools have been established in the interior of Karbi Anglong by the Sevakendra. After running a number of years these schools have gradually been transferred either to the State Education Department or the District Council of Karbi Anglong. In 1961-62 two basic schools with an enrolment of 127 tribal pupils including 41 girls were also established by the Sevakendra. A plot of 3 acres of cultivable land is provided to each of the basic schools for growing fruits and vegetables. The poor tribal pupils are also provided with free books, slates, and papers etc. The Sariahjan H.E. School organised in the year 1954, is now recognised by the Education Department of Assam. With the opening of class X, the school is now a full-fledged H.E. School and is running with an average enrolment of 200 students.

The Gramodyog Vidyalaya (The Village Industries Training Institute) was started in 1959 with a view to train up tribal youths in village crafts to enable them to earn better living. About 20 students are undergoing training in different crafts like carpentry, Ghani and oil pressing and fibre and rope making etc. There are trained instructors and demonstrators in the institute and the trainees are helped with a stipend of Rs.25/- p.m. for whole time and Rs.12/- p.m. for partime. The sale proceeds from the centre amounted to Rs.841.26 p. whereas the total expenditure incurred on the centre during 1962-63 came to Rs.11,688.89 p. The grants received by Gramodyog Vidyalaya from the various sources are as follows :-

	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63
1. State Government.	Rs. 9,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-	—
2. Community Development Block, Bokajan.	—	Rs. 360/-	Rs. 480/-
3. Directorate of Technical Education Assam.	—	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 6,000/-
4. Cottage Industries Department, Assam.	—	—	Rs. 1,000/-

In 1962-63 there were three separate hostels for boys and girls where over 70 students were living and prosecuting their studies in the different institutes. Majority of them were getting help from the Sevakendra, Rs. 12/- per month as stipend besides other facilities. The Government grant from its various departments covered roughly about 50% of the expenditure for these educational activities.

To provide medical aid to combat diseases, particularly leprosy, in this area, the Sevakendra is running one general Dispensary, one Leprosy Colony, one Preventoria and 4 outdoor Leprosy Clinics. In 1962-63 a total number of 6,183 patients were treated in the Dispensary at Sariahjan. The new sub-centres of the Dispensary had been opened at Saphapani and Upper Deopani in 1961 and 1962. The Medical Officer of the Sevakendra attend these centres once a week. The Sariahjan Kusthanivas, the Preventoria and four Leprosy Clinics of the Sevakendra are rendering useful service in combating Leprosy in the adjacent areas. Kusthanivas (leprosy colony) was established in 1950. The average number of patients in the colony was 20. The total number of out-door patients treated in other centres came to 518 in 1962-63. The in-patients of the colony and the children of the preventoria are given free fooding and clothing, besides medical treatment. The Sevakendra has received from the State Government of Assam under Art. 275 a grant of Rs. 6,000/- and Rs. 15,000/- in 1961-62 and 1962-63 respectively. A grant of Rs. 10,000/- was also sanctioned by the Social Welfare Department, Assam, in 1962-63. A new leprosy scheme was approved by the Ministry of Health, Government of India, for carrying out intensive survey and domiciliary treatment 1961-62. The scheme had been continued in 1962-63 also, with a grant of Rs. 6,400/- received from the Ministry of Health, Government of India.

An amount of Rs. 1,734.20 P. had been spent on the scheme up to 31st. of March, 1963.

The Sevakendra took the initiative in persuading the Government of Assam, to deforest a strip of 6 sq. miles area of the Nambor Reserved Forest. Over 700 Karbi families of hill *Jhumers* have been settled in this area. Organised into big villages and settled in life they are taking to the plough and carrying on wet rice cultivation. According to size, each family has been allotted economic holdings and a separate plot for homestead. Roads, schools, ring-wells and irrigation dams have been constructed in the area to improve the standard of life of the settlers.

The following are institutions or centres run by Mikir Hills Sevakendra in the District of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills.

1. High English School at Sariahjan.
2. Gramudoyog Centre at Sariahjan.
3. Dispensary at Sariahjan.
4. Leprosy Colony at Sariahjan.
5. Preventoria at Sariahjan.
6. Leprosy Clinics at (i) Sariahjan, (ii) Saphapani, (iii) Upper Deopani, (iv) Balipathar.

The Shreemanta Shankar Mission, Nowgong : The Shreemanta Shankar Mission was founded at Nowgong in January, 1950 and since then it has been working on humanitarian lines throughout the State. The Mission is managed by an Executive Committee of 13 members. It took up the cause of education in Karbi Anglong by establishing educational and cultural institutions. The Mission is running one Middle English School and one Junior Basic School at Ouguri since 1963. Each of the school is provided with hostels for the pupils hailing from distant places. They are provided with free food, free lodging and free clothing. There were 25 pupils in the M.E. School and 52 pupils in the Junior Basic School in 1962-63.

Since 1953, the Mission has been doing anti-Leprosy and various other welfare works in the Karbi Anglong where the incidence of the fell diseases like Leprosy and *Kala-Ajar* is very heavy. The Mission is running 7 clinics with 12 sub-centres, One Leprosy Hospital at Ouguri and 3 charitable dispensaries at Ghilani, Tumpereng and Ouguri in Karbi Anglong. During the year 1962-63 1,006 outdoor cases and

18 indoor cases was treated. With the help of the grants-in-aid from the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, a Preventoria to segregate the children of leprous parents was established at Tumpreng. Children in the Preventoria are provided with free lodging, fooding and clothing. There were 13 children in the Preventoria in 1962-63. Two colonies, one at Ouguri and the other at Satgaon were established for the rehabilitation of 10 patients whose diseases were arrested under the treatment.

The Mission is also running 3 Maternity Centres in Karbi Anglong at Diphu, Tumpreng and Ghilani through the services of one midwife and one female attendant in each centre. During the year 1962-63, cases attended were female diseases 603, delivery 170, houses visited 1,509 and infants treated 987 by the staff of these maternity centres.

The following are the institutions or centres run by the Shreemanta Shankar Mission in the District of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills.

1. Middle English School at Ouguri.
2. Junior Basic School at Ouguri.
3. Cultural Institution at (i) Ouguri, (ii) Tumpreng.
4. Leprosy Hospital at Ouguri.
5. Charitable Dispensaries at (i) Ghilani, (ii) Tumpreng, (iii) Ouguri.
6. Clinics at (i) Amsoai, (ii) Umpanai, (iii) Ouguri, (iv) Tumpreng, (v) Ghilani, (vi) Borthal, (vii) Kalonga.
7. Preventoria at Tumpreng.
8. Rehabilitation Centre at (i) Ouguri, (ii) Satgaon,
9. Maternity Centre at (i) Diphu, (ii) Tumpreng, (iii) Ghilani.

The Presbyterian Mission, Haflong : The Mission as pioneer in the field of education in the district, began its activities with the coming of the Late Rev. Garland William to Haflong in 1905. He built the first Mission house and a tiny school where he used to teach a few boys. When he left, the work was supervised by Late Rev. T.W. Rose from Silchar and in 1912 late Rev. J. M. Harris took over the Mission work. It is during his time that many schools were established in the interior of North Cachar Hills particularly in the villages inclined to Charistianity. The primary schools established by the Mission in the early thirties of the twentieth century. has already been described in the Chapter Education and Culture.

Many schools were established after this period but since 1951, the Mission Schools have gradually been handed over to the Government for better running of the schools. In 1963, only 24 Primary Schools with the strength of 380 students were under the Mission. In the schools where there were qualified teachers, classes were maintained up to class III and in some schools upto class II only. The Mission has also published some of the Bible Extracts and the Gospels in Zemi Naga, Biete, Hmar and Thado dialects. Following is the list of the Primary Schools maintained by the Presbyterian Mission in 1963 :—

Name of school	Nos. of students.	Name of school	Nos. of students.
1. Bhangpiri	16	13. Dolai Chunga	10
2. Vaitang	15	14. Malangpa	22
3. Jahai	23	15. P. Kamphai	15
4. Thalangpui	14	16. K. Kampahi	16
5. Chaptuk	17	17. K. Hokkai	17
6. Tuikim	9	18. B. Haflong	19
7. Michikur	17	19. Keloloa	20
8. Asaiak Robi	10	20. K. Inpoi	17
9. La Kar	14	21. Bolason	14
10. Mualsheng	12	22. Taijoi	9
11. Vongjoi	23	23. Naphojou	14
12. P. Hmar lushei	20	24. Donlon	17
Total—			380

Shri Ramkrishna Seva-Samittee, Haflong : Shri Ramkrishna Seva Samittee established at Haflong in the year 1950 with a view to

impart instructions and promote the study and application of *Vedanta* philosophy and its principles among the masses as propounded by Shri Ramkrishna. A Residential Tribal Students Home on the lines of *Gurukul* teaching is being run by the Shri Ramkrishna Seva Samittee, at Haflong. The boys are imparted moral, social and religious education along with their school education. There are three tailoring training centres under the Samittee. One is located at Haflong and two are mobile centres imparting training in the interior of North Cachar Hills.

Sariahjan Welfare Extension Project : It was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister of Assam, on the 30th of December, 1964, with a view to undertake multipurpose welfare programmes relating to women, children and the handicapped. The project covers an area of 90 sq. miles, a unit of 25 villages with an approximate population of 25,000. The programmes of the project are implemented by whole time village level women workers who are to work under the guidance of the Project Implementing Committee consisting of official and non-official members. The Deputy Commissioner, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills is the Chairman of Committee. Government contributes 75% of its expenditure and the remaining 25% is raised from the public by way of matching contribution either in kind or cash.

The project opened 4 centres at Khatkhathi, Rongagora, Tenglijan and Bhagajan Nambor Adarsha village. Another centre was opened at Dillai. The Programme of the project is divided into three categories of (i) daily, (ii) weekly and (iii) periodical activities. (i) The daily activities of a centre consist of *Balwadi*, first-aid, social education, general medical services, and allied services like art and craft, and recreational activities for women and children. (ii) The weekly programmes comprises sanitation, weekly washing of *Balwadi* children's clothes, cultural activities like *Bhajan* and *Kirtan* and formation of *Mahila Samittees*. (iii) Under periodical activities comes celebration of festivals, organising folk dances etc., and *kitchen garden* competition etc. Children attending the *Balwadi* classes at the project centres is over 200 daily. *Balwadi* class is meant only for children of 3 to 5 years of age. The project renders medical service and attend to delivery cases ranging from pre-natal to post-natal period. The workers of the project attended over 300 cases and took care of over 100 new born babies in the year 1961.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Diphu : A decade ago, it was a tiny village railway station on the North-East-Frontier Railways. With the establishment of headquarters of the District Administration as well as of the District Council Karbi Anglong in 1951, it has gradually developed into a town. The present population of the town is about 5,000. It is a centre of various educational institutions like Govt. College, three High Schools including one Govt. High School, Hindi Teachers' Training School and Industrial Training Institute. The town is also gaining importance as an industrial centre of the district. There is a plywood factory. Besides, there are saw mills, rice mills, *Atta Chakis* in and around the town. It is also an important commercial centre of the district. Timber, coal, cotton, *makai* etc., are the chief exports, of the town. A weekly *bazar* is held on Wednesday. The town is well connected with Manipur-Road, Nowgong, Lumding and Lanka by motorable roads.

Howraghat : Howraghat area is known as the granary of Karbi Anglong. The weekly market of Howraghat is the biggest market of the district. The main arrivals of the market are paddy, rice, jute, cotton, mustard and *til* seeds. Besides, the headquarters of Howraghat Community Development Block, there is a Police Station. Howraghat is situated on the bank of the Jamuna river which makes the natural boundary between the district of Nowgong and Karbi Anglong. It is nearly at a distance of 108 km. from Diphu, the district headquarters. There is regular bus service from Diphu to Howraghat. It is also connected with Nowgong and Hojai, the nearest railway station, by motorable road.

Bokajan : Bokajan, a railway station on the North-East-Frontier Railways is another important marketing centre of the district. Bokajan area is famous for tea and sugar cane cultivation. The sugar cane is mainly exported to the Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill, Dergaon in Sibsagar district. The other exports are paddy, mustard and *til* seeds etc. It is also the headquarters of the Bokajan Community Development Block and Bokajan Police Station. It is linked with Diphu and Manipur-Road by road. There is one rice mill and one plywood factory.

The construction of cement factory by the Cement Corporation of India has brought the place into prominence. The estimated cost of the factory will be Rs. 10.71 crores and will produce 600 tonnes of cement daily. There will be a small township near the factory for the workers and employees of the factory.

Nij-Rongkhang : Nij-Rongkhang otherwise known as Rongbonghom is a typical Karbi village situated on a hillock about 48 kms. from Baithalangso. It is the seat of Karbi culture and traditions where the traditional Karbi *Pimpos* are supposed to reside round their chief *Lindokpo*. The village is divided into various *artus* (*Suburi* in Assamese). In Ronghang *Artu*, there are thirty *Pimpos*, and Ronghang *Lindok* is the head of that *Artu*. In Rongchecho *Artu* there are fifteen *Pimpos* and Rongchecho is the head. The Killing *Artu* consists of three *Pimpos* and Rongpi *Lindok* is the head. Ronghang *Lindok* is the head of all and is called *Karbi-Recho* (King of Karbis). Traditionally the village maintains all the paraphernalia of the Karbi customs and the inhabitants of the village still adhere strictly to traditional code of life. The place is connected only with bridle paths.

Socheng : Socheng is another village about 16 kms. away from Nij-Rongkhang which according to tradition was established by the legendary Karbi king *Rongbonghom*. It is now a deserted place covered with thick forest and infested with bears. Some snake figures cut-out of the stone blocks, two of which are known as *Bilai Thenlon* and *Bilai Lindo*. There are also many other statues of stones representing heroes of the Karbis. One such represents the *Thong Nokbe*, the great legendary figure who fought the Kacharis and the Khasis. The *Pimpos* once worshipped these snake figures.

Besides the historical and other important places mentioned above, Karbi Anglong contains enormous ruins of temples and buildings which may be placed between 600 and 1200 A.D. The remains in the area show that the shrines were dedicated to different deities and some of the specimen indicates strong non-Aryan influence. The following areas reveal the architectural remains :

Tarabasa : Situating at about 41 kilometres from Diphu, the place is connected by P.W.D. Road with the head quarters of Karbi Anglong. There were discovered the ruins of an old temple. Among the ruins broken pillars and decorated stone-pieces were found. All these are now covered with *jungle* near which a new village with 1,020 inhabitants has

sprung up. There is a weekly *hat* at Tarabasa which sits every Saturday. All the necessities of every day life can be purchased in this *hat*. No survey of these ruins to ascertain the time and school of architect of the temple has yet been done. Some such architectural remains also have been discovered at PHULANI, DIGHALPANI, MOUDANGA, and DEOPANI. In Deopani area there are remains of old temples and brick-built edifices of different gods like *Siva* and *Vishnu*, which according to scholars belong to 9th to 12th century A.D'. Phulani sits at about 56 kilometres distance from Hojai of Nowgong district and the P.W.D. Road from Hojai to Diphu just passes by it. There is a weekly *hat* which is held every Thursday at Phulani.

Position of Dighalpani is 20 kilometre from Hojai. A *Kachha* road links it with Hojai-Diphu P.W.D. Road.

Nearest town to Deopani is Golaghat (Sibsagar district) which situates at about 33 kilometres from it. Many things of archaeological interest including figures and floral designs are found scattered around it. At present Deopani is a village inhabited by about 1,050 souls as per the 1971 Census. A *kachha* road and also a *pucca* P.W.D. Road join this place with the P.W.D. Road from Golaghat. There is a Post and Telegraph Office at Deopani. Public Health Department has constructed both ring wells tube wells in the village for providing drinking water to the inhabitants. Nearest weekly *hat* is Holow Khowa village, sits on every Thursday and its distance from Deopani is only 3 kilometres on foot.

Moudanga situates near Mathanguri Tea Estate which is about 28 kilometre by *kachha* road from Golaghat. The nearest available weekly *hat* is that of Bogijan T.E. which sits weekly on Thursday.

Nabhanga : On Mahamaya *Pahar* which is about 78 kilometres from Diphu and 12 kilometres from Teteliguri, there are extensive ruins of brick edifice which surrounded a temple in the ancient times. The remains of the temple is still there. There are also remains of tanks, earthen *garh* and stone engravings well decorated with different figures and motifs. Its door lintel depicts scenes similar to those from Tezpur and Dah-Parbatia. The date ascribed to these archaeological finds by Dr. P.C. Choudhury, is 9th century A.D. or earlier.²

Asalu : It is a Zemi Naga village. From 1853, it was the Sub-divisional head-quarters of the North Cachar Hills which was then under the district of Nowgong. In 1880, the Subdivisional headquarters were

1. P. C. Choudhury : *The History of Civilization of the People of Assam To the Twelfth Century A.D.* Gauhati 1959, P. 470-471
2. Ibid, P. 471

shifted to Gunjung. There is still one old broken fort of stones. There is an Inspection Bungalow of Public Works Department. It is about eleven kms. east of Mahur on the Mahur-Laisong Road.

Garampani : It is situated on the right bank of the Kopili river at about 122 Kms on the Shillong-Silchar Road, It is a good place for holiday makers. Apart from its beautiful sceneries there is a hot spring where a *kund* named *Anunsuya Kund* has been recently constructed. The *Kund* was donated by the then Governor of Assam, Shri Shri Prakasha, in memory of his wife. The visitors can enjoy both hot and cold bath and fishing in the river Kopili. A few miles away towards the east there is reserved forest where wild animals abound in. It is therefore, a very good place for hunting too. The Kopili Hydro-electric Project when completed will have an added beauty to the place.

Haflong : Haflong is situated on the spur of the Borail range about 3,117 feet above sea level having a population of 3,265 persons. The town is prettily laid out with shady paths and artificial waters. From Missionary Hill, the Lovers Leap and various other points, magnificent changing views can be had of the thickly covered valleys of the Ruby and Diyung rivers lying far below with the dark back-ground of the Borail rising to 6,000 feet in the cloud capped peaks of Mahadeo. Haflong is rapidly becoming a popular sanitarium for the tea planting community of Assam. As a centre for tourists of sport in the North Cachar Hills, it is ideally situated as its good bridle paths lead to all parts of the Subdivision. Excellent fishing can be had in the Jatinga, Diyung and Kopili rivers and big game shooting can be obtained by those who have time at their disposal and are adventurous.

The Subdivisional Magistrates' Court was transferred to this place from Gunjung in 1896, and since then it is the Subdivisional headquarters of the North Cachar Hills subdivision. The offices of the District Council of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous District are also located here. There is a Degree College, a Government High Schools, and civil Hospital. It is also an important trading centre of North Cachar Hills and a weekly *bazar* is also held here. The place is an important railway station on the N.F. Railway between Lumding and Badarpur railway stations. It is connected with Shillong and Silchar by jeepable road.

Khorongma : In Dimasa Kachari *khong* means barrier and *ma* means big. It therefore means a big strong fence or fort. It is said that a strong garrison of the Kachari Kings used to be kept at Khorongma during the time of Gobinde Chandra and Tularam.

The place is also called *Bill Sagai* in Synteng or Pnar. One Synteng or Pnar Chief named Sajar Nangli is said to have been living here for long time before the Kachari rule. He is said to have constructed the 3 artificial lakes which are still in existence and one is of considerable size almost like the lake of the Haflong town. The whole area is encircled by the two parallel deep trenches and with the exceptions of few connecting points there are many trenches between these lakes which are still difficult to penetrate. It is on Shillong-Silchar Road at 144.84 kms. and at a distance of 132 kms from Haflong by motorable road.

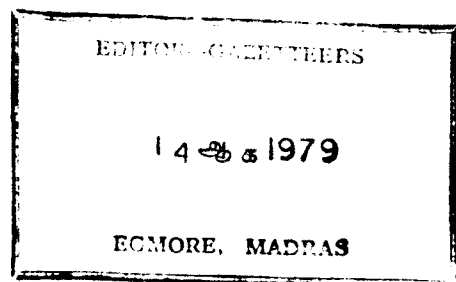
Maibong : Maibong is an important railway station on the N.F. Railway between Lumding and Badarpur railway stations. It is now the project headquarters of the Diyung Valley Community Development Block. It is a big marketing centre of the district. The main arrivals to the weekly market are cotton, mustard, *til* seed, rice, ginger, etc. Besides, there is one hospital, one leprosy colony and one M.E. School. The place is situated at a distance of 39 kms from Lower Haflong and connected with it by a jeepable road.

'Maibong' is a Kachari word, *Mai* means paddy or rice and *Bang* or *Gabang* means plenty i.e. a place where there is a plenty of paddy or rice. It was the second capital of the Kachari Kings. After abandoning Dimapur the Kachari king moved his capital south east to Maibong on the Mahur river. In 1706, to escape the Ahoms, the Kacharis fled southwards to Khaspur in Cachar district and discarded Maibong. The remains of brick ruins and rock sculptures at Maibong show that Maibong must once have been a thriving place. The ruins are probably the remains of the palace of the *Raja*, but the walls have been almost entirely demolished and it is hardly possible to trace even the outline of the building. Two rock cut inscriptions were also discovered in Maibong. There are also some fifteen rock sculptures in different states of preservation, eleven of which represent foot and one a horse soldier, one a horse, one a tiger, and one a tortoise³. There is a specimen of a rock-cut temple of the Kachari king on the bank of the Mahur river. It is curved out of a huge rock of black sand stone with a fairly commodious plinth area of rectangular dimension. The temple was designed to house the tutelary war goddess *Ranchandi* or *Mahamaya* of the Kachari king.

3. B. C. Allen, *Assam District Gazetteers Vol. I Cachar*, Calcutta, 1905, pp.40-41
Aspects of the Heritage of Assam Indian History Congress, 22nd Session, Gauhati 1959, P. 8-9.

Remains of Bolson, Kharitong, Kobak and Derabara : There are are ancient monolithic groups at Bolson, Kharitong, Kobak and near Derabara. The monolithic group at Bolson are grave-yards of some clans (Syntengs or Pnars) of the Khasi tribe who used to live in the region before the Kacharis advent to the North Cachar Hills. Bolson is about 19kms. and Kobak is about 32 kms. north of Harangajoa by village foot-path and Derabara is 32 kms. north-west of Haflong by bridle path.

Shemkor : It is considered to be the biggest Kachari Village of North Cachar Hills. Shemkar is a Kachari word. *Shem* means salt and *Kar* means hole i.e. a place where there is salt. Salt used to be made here during the time of old Kachari Kings when Maibong was the capital. It is about 28 kms. east of Maibong.



GLOSSARY

1. *Ahu*—A kind of paddy, harvested during summer.
2. *Ajo-ase*—a Karbi word, night fever.
3. *Akejoi* — } System of Karbi marriage.
4. *Akeme*— }
5. *Ali*—Embankments across a paddy field.
6. *Amri*—Name of group of Karbi people.
7. *Anguli*—finger, used for measuring length.
8. *Arleng*—a Karbi word meaning Man.
9. *Artu*—a Karbi word, collection of houses, *suburi* in Assamese.
10. *Balia-pani* - Mad water, turbulent floods.
11. *Bao*—A kind of paddy harvested during winter.
12. *Bar-Bhandari*—One who is in-charge of law and justice.
13. *Bar-Kapor*—A thick garment to wrap the body in winter.
14. *Bar-ghar*—The house of the Karbi people used for cooking and eating.
15. *Basti*—A homestead.
16. *Beget*—an indigenous measurement of length equal to '2286 metre.
17. *Bazar*—Market place.
18. *Bigha*—A measure of land standing for 1/4th of a *pura* of land.
19. *Bihu*—An Assamese National festival.
20. *Bil*—A shallow pool of water, a small lake.
21. *Bilai Thenlon*— } Snake figures cut out of the stone blocks.
22. *Bilai Lindo*— }
23. *Bhur or Mar*—Raft made of bamboo or pieces of banana tree.
24. *Chhaddar*—A piece of garment used to cover the upper part of the body.
25. *Charkha*—A spinning wheel, called *Jatar* in Assamese.
26. *Chhatak*—an old measurement of weight, equal to 583 kilogram.
27. *Chitha*—A revenue field register from which *Jamabandi* is prepared.
28. *Chunga*—A hollow bamboo ; sometimes the knot is retained at the bottom for using as container or measuring liquid thing.
29. *Dangari*—A large sheaf of paddy.
30. *Dantal*—A tusker.
31. *Dao*—A tool made of iron-bar.
32. *Dewan*—A village court where cases are tried by the head-men.
33. *Deshi*—Home-made.

34. *Dhai*—Mid-wife.
35. *Dhenki*—A long beam with a pestle affixed at the end, meant for pounding rice or pulse.
36. *Doli*—palanquin, *Dola* in Assamese.
37. *Doon*—A conical shaped bamboo basket for measuring five *seers* of grain.
38. *Dupatta*—A piece of cloth that loosely cover the shoulder.
39. *Ekra*—Reed.
40. *Eri*—A species of silk, the cocoons of which are fed on castor plant.
41. *Fandi*—An expert in catching wild animal.
42. *Gandharva*—The system of secret marriage among the Hindus in old time.
43. *Ganja*—An Indian hemp.
44. *Gaonbua*—The headman of a village who is responsible for collection of land-revenue and house-tax.
45. *Garh*—An embankment.
46. *Ghani*—An oil-compressor.
47. *Ghar*—A dwelling-house.
48. *Ghat*—A landing stair or a bathing place on a river-bank.
49. *Gar*—Molasses.
50. *Hacha*—A Karbi festival observed during the time of harvesting.
51. *Hat*—A market place, also a measurement $\frac{1}{4}$ of a yard.
52. *Harai Gobra*—A Dimasa Kachari festival.
53. *Hazira*—Attendance, a kind of payment made daily on attendance.
54. *Jabs*—A measurement, *yabs*.
55. *Jamabandi*—A revenue register holding the names and other particulars of land-owner.
56. *Jhum*—A process of cultivation in hill-areas.
57. *Jhuming*—A shifting cultivation.
58. *Kalah*—A pitcher.
59. *Kanango*—A revenue officer who maintains the *Jamabandi* copy at Deputy Commissioner's office.
60. *Karbi*—'Man' in general.
61. *Karbi-Richo*—King of the Karbis.
62. *Katha*—A measure of land standing for $\frac{1}{3}$ th of a *bigha*.
63. *Kathia Tali*—Paddy seed-bed.
64. *Khar pani*—An Alkaline preparation extracted usually from banana plant ashes.
64. *Khedu Shikar*—A process employed in catching elephant.
66. *Khel*—Group.

67. *Khorongma*—A Dimasa Kachari word meaning strong fence.
68. *Khumang*—A Dimasa Kachari word for the village headman.
69. *Khuri*—A place where large herds of cows and buffaloes are kept.
70. *Khutiwala*—One who maintains *Khuties*.
71. *Khupri*—A Nepali dagger.
72. *Kirikis*—hunting elephants.
73. *Kudali*—Hoes, *Kodal*.
74. *Lahi*—A fine variety of paddy.
75. *Lecha*—A measure of land standing $\frac{1}{10}$ th of a *katha*.
76. *Lodet* or *lodet pi*—The Karbi word for female diviner (*Ojha*).
77. *Machan*—A kind of a raised platform made of bamboo.
78. *Mahal*—A division of forests for different purposes.
79. *Maimuthesha*—*Sradha* ceremony of the Dimasa Kacharis.
80. *Makhana*—An elephant without tusk.
81. *Makoi*—Maize, a staple cereal.
82. *Mandal*—A revenue officer in charge of a lot.
83. *Mauza*—A collection of villages.
84. *Mauzadar*—The in-charge of a *Mauza* who is responsible for collection of land-revenue and house-tax.
85. *Mahadev*—Lord Siva.
86. *Mangalsua*—A diviner who can discover the author of the spell, god or demon who had brought the trouble.
87. *Mahajan*—A business-man who lends money to others.
88. *Mekhela*—A lower-garment for female worn down at the waist.
89. *Mela-shikar*—A process employed in catching elephant.
90. *Mohar*—An old term for coins.
91. *Murha*—A kind of seat made of cane and bamboo.
92. *Nadi*—A river.
93. *Nala*—A drain.
94. *Naluka*—The bark of a tree used as perfume.
95. *Nazir*—A court official who serves summons.
96. *Osomer Jijan Chalanglok*—A kind of Karbi marriage which resembles *Gandharva* marriage among the Hindus in former times.
97. *Pachi*—A basket.
98. *Pahar*—A hill.
99. *Palla*—A balance.
100. *Palki*—A palanquin.
101. *Parbat*—A mountain.
102. *Pari*—A kind of rug made of lumps of raw cotton.

103. *Patta*—A lease to a person.
104. *Phal*—A piece of iron fastened in the front end of a plough.
105. *Pira*—A kind of wooden furniture for sitting purposes.
106. *Powa*—1/4th of a *Seer*.
107. *Pudina*—A kind of edible herb with pungent smell.
108. *Puja*—Worship.
109. *Pura*—A measurement.
110. *Purohita*—Who performs sacrifices.
111. *Rati*—The seed of wild plant used for measuring gold.
112. *Rajani Gobra*—A Dimasa Kachari festivals.
113. *Ran-chandi*—War-Goddess.
114. *Ronghang*—A sect of the Karbi people.
115. *Rongker*—An annual village festival of the Karbis.
116. *Rijamfai*—A piece of cloth worn by the Dimasa Kachari woman round the breast.
117. *Rikhaosa*—A scarf in Karbi dialect.
118. *Sali*—A kind of paddy, harvested during winter.
119. *Sanchipat*—The leaf of a kind of tree (*Agaru*) used for writing manuscripts in old days.
120. *Sangha*—Club, association.
121. *Shemkar*—A Dimasa Kachari word meaning the place where salt is available.
122. *Shikari*—Hunter.
123. *Sital pati*—Mat woven with fine fibre.
124. *So-meme*—a Karbi word meaning evil pain.
125. *Taklis*—An instrument meant for hand-spinning of yarn.
126. *Tamul*—Betel-nut.
127. *Thor or Jhap*—Five, six or eight bundles of paddy.
128. *Til*—Sesamum
129. *Tira*—a Lalung word meaning People or Lord.
130. *Tola*—1/4 th of a *seer*, used for weighing gold.
131. *Tulachani*—Old-time weighing scale.
132. *Ural-mari*—Wooden mortar used for pounding paddy and rice.
133. *Vansavali*—Description of rulers in succession of dynasty, genealogy.
134. *Zamindari*—A system of land-tenure and taxation.

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