CHAPTER II

GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

Location

The district of Thoubal occupies an area of 405 km² of the Manipur valley, which is centrally located in the state of Manipur. It is extended between 24°015'N and 24°45'N latitudes and 93°50'E to 94°10'E longitudes. The district has a population of 2,31,781 (census 1981) as against 1,81,771 in 1971. The density of population comes to 572 persons per km² (1981) which was merely 449 persons per km² in 1971. There are two municipalities namely Kakching and Thoubal which are situated along the State Highway and National Highway 39 respectively. Besides these, there are seven other notified areas i.e. Wangjing, Lilong, Oinam Sawombung, Heirok, Sugnu, Yairipok, Sikhong and Sekmai. The pace of development is faster in the neighbourhood of these central places as compared to the remote parts of the study area (Fig. 2.1-).

Boundaries

The district is bounded by Imphal district in the north, Chandel and Churachandpur district in the south, Ukhrul and Chandel districts in the east and Imphal and Bishnupur districts in the west. The Thoubal river which flows from north-east to south-west direction, determines
the northern boundary of the district while the Imphal river, which flows from extreme north-west to extreme south-west demarcates its western boundary. In the east, the area is bounded by the Yomadong range popularly known as the Manipur Eastern Hills and in the south by the southern hills of Manipur.

**Administrative Divisions**

From the administrative point of view, the district is divided into two sub-divisions, ten Constituencies of Legislative Assembly, two Community Development Blocks, five Administrative Circles and ten Police Departments. There are 41 Gram Panchayats, out of which 14 come under Kakching and the rest 27 in Thoubal sub-division.

Thoubal, Kakching, Lilong, Yairipok and Waikhong are the five administrative circles of the district, administered by Sub-Deputy Collectors. For the quick transaction of the rural employment and other development programmes, there is one District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) with its headquarters at Thoubal.

**Geology**

The geology of the area is similar to that of the Manipur valley, since it is a part of the valley. It is
believed that prior to the evolution of Manipur valley, different tectonic events have already taken place. At the early stage of the orogenic movement during the late Cretaceous period, sedimentation took place in the valley. It is accompanied by igneous intrusion. As a result, the Shan plateau was uplifted in the east besides a narrow highland belt in the west. It marked the beginning of a tectonic highland of Arakan Yoma and Naga hills forming the gulfs of Assam and Burma. When the next orogenic movement took place in the mid Miocene period, the newly formed Arakan Yoma reached its highest prominence. As the final orogenic movement takes place during the early Pleistocene, the Arakan Yoma was raised to its present position and pushed the gulfs further south (Bernhardt Kummel). Thus, the gulfs developed into a valley form and the present valley of Manipur emerged into an alluvial plain.

The generalised stratigraphic succession of the area may be summarised as below:

**Alluvium**
- Carbonaceous, dark colour deposits of Lacustrine type(?) The residual soils being reddish brown as found in hill slopes/foot hills.
- Recent - subrecent to or post Bara tail(?)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layer</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barail Sandstone</td>
<td>Light grey, grey brown, reddish brown sandstone</td>
<td>Oligocene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(weathered in many places)</td>
<td>- Upper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eocene to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishang Shale</td>
<td>Dark grey splintry shale, reddish brown because of</td>
<td>Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>weathering</td>
<td>Lower Eocene to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconformity (?)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base unseen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Disang shales are dark grey in colour and highly splintery. However, almost all outcrops are well-weathered and so reddish brown in colour. This sequence has intercalations of sandstones/siltstones in the form of lensoids and bands. This character is similar for the whole area and occupies the major extent of this district.

The Barail sandstone on the other hand is light grey to brownish grey in colour with reddish brown colour in the weathered zones. It also shows intercalation nature with shale but predominantly sandstone in character. The outcrops are limited and occurred on the higher elevation of hillocks lying on the western side of Sekmai and Kakching localities overlying the Disangs.

The alluvium deposits found in the area are usually of dark colour mainly because of carbonaceous materials.
Age of this deposit is controversial because it directly overlies the Disang shales and so may be post-Barail in age (Singh, S.I., Unpublished Paper, 1991).

The general trend of the area is NNE-SSW and found to be controlled by the regional strike of this region.

**Mineral Resources:**

Ferrogenous rocks occur at Kakching. It had been used for making indigenous tools and equipments such as sword, knife etc. in the historical times.

**Salt:** Salt is available at the fault zone of the eastern foothills of Sikkim, Chandrakhong, Ningel and Waikhong. The extraction of salt in the state from these salt springs has been done since historical times.

Sandstone available in the outcrops and in the river beds as transported boulders/pebbles are of local importance specially for construction of buildings, roads, etc.

**Physiography:**

Thoubal district occupies the southern part of central alluvial plain endowed with thick and fertile
soil. It is composed of alluvium mainly deposited by the Imphal, Thoubal, Sekmai and Chakpi rivers and their tributaries. The physical landscape is relatively uniform in nature excepting a few small hill ranges of Manipur Eastern Hills which exhibit undulating topography. The lowest contour line (770 m above MSL) is confined in the western part of the region where swamps and marshes of depressional area become evident. The highest elevation can be noticed towards the eastern boundary of the area. The district can be divided into three characteristic physiographic units as follows (Fig.2.2A).

i) The hill area

ii) The alluvial plain, and

iii) The swampy lake and depressional areas.

Hill Area: The hills occupy 1,380 ha of geographical area of the district. The south-eastern part of the area is extended along the foothills of the Manipur Eastern hills or Yomadong ranges. It is the part and parcel of the Disang shales which constitute 45 per cent of the hill area. Further, the area is marked by the scattered and isolated hillocks which account rest 55 per cent of the hilly area of the district.

From the geological point of view, the area may be divided into two groups namely, the Disang and other hills.
The former belongs to Disang shales formed during upper Cretaceous to Tertiary period while the latter formation to alluvium of recent to sub-recent or post-Varai origin.

Table 2.1 Geological formations and their geochronology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rocks</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Absolute age in years before present</th>
<th>Era</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alluvium</td>
<td>Recent (Holocene)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Canozoic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miocene</td>
<td>25,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disang</td>
<td>Oligocene</td>
<td>36,000,000</td>
<td>Mesozoic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mid Miocene-Iocene</td>
<td>60,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Geological Survey of India, Geology and Mineral Resources and the States of India, Part IV (Delhi, 1974).

The Alluvial Plain: "The reverine alluvial plain of the district" is a part of the Imphal Valley. It occupies about 270 km² of the area. It represents a flat land topography which has been formed by the alluvial deposits after Tertiary period. The eastern hill ranges of Manipur stretching from north to north-east and south to south-east fringed the alluvium of the district. The general slope of
the area tends towards the west. The alluvium is deposited mainly by the Imphal, Thoubal and Sekmai rivers and their tributaries such as the Arong, Heirok, Wangjing and Kakmayai river. In general, rivers inundate the paddy fields of the valley once in a year, providing amazing fertility to the soil. This plain is known as the "rice bowl" of Manipur. Recently, various dams and reservoirs have been constructed to harness the river water and to provide assured water supply for irrigation purposes. The alluvial plain may further be subdivided into four subdivisions namely,

(a) the northern alluvial plain, which is drained by the Imphal and Thoubal rivers and their small streamlets. It is confined in the villages situated in association of Lilong, Yairipok and Thoubal towns;

(b) the eastern plain is formed by the small catchment areas of the Heirok, Wangjing, Ingourok and Kakmayai rivers around Thoubal and Yairipok;

(c) the central part of the valley is drained by the Sekmai river. It constitutes the most fertile tract of the area and occupies central part of the district; and
(d) the southern part of the alluvial plain is drained by the Imphal and the Chakpi rivers up to Sugnu, Serou, Wangoo and adjoining villages.

**The swamps and depressional areas:** These areas occupy about one-third of the total area of the district. It is surrounded by the alluvial plain in the east and the Imphal river in the west. The entire western part of the district exhibits the characteristics of swamps and depressional areas which are locally known as *pats* such as Waithou, Pumlen, Lousi, Ikop, Karung, Khoidum and Lamjao *pats*.

**Drainage:** The area is drained by the Imphal and Thoubal rivers and their tributaries such as Arong, Heirok, Ingourok, Wangjing and Sekmai. The Imphal river originates from the Western hills of Manipur near Kangpokpi and flows southwards so as to meet the Manipur river at Sugnu and Serou. The Thoubal river rises from the Manipur Eastern hills. It runs towards northwest and finally join the Imphal river at Irong as its main tributary. The Sekmai river originates near Kangoi of Manipur Eastern hills. It passes through the central part of the area and merges into the Imphal river at Sekmaljin. The rivers and streams of the study area are flooded during the rainy season. Most of the small streams or rivulets follow the general slope
of the area i.e., east to west and finally join various lakes. Some of these streams are the Arong, Ingourok, Wangjing and Heirok. Thus, there are a few small watersheds of smaller streams also in the study area.(Fig.2.2B)

**Soil:** The soil of the area may be classed into clay-loam to clay, Red soil, Peaty soil and Sandy loam. The fertility of the soil is excellent in quality which may continue to yield good crops if desired manures are mixed in time. Rivers flowing through the area, use to deposit considerable amount of mud and clay during the rainy season and ameliorate fertility status of the soil. As one moves towards the hills, he may come across the lateritic red soils of low fertility(Fig. 2.2C).

**Clay-loam to clay:** Most of the area under study is characterised with these types of soils. Frequent inundation and accumulation of fine sediments in the flood plain are responsible for development of the soil. Due to its very fine texture and rich humus content, it is suitable for paddy cultivation. The colour of soil varies from dark grey to pale brown. These soils are confined around Chandrakhong, Sikhong, Tentha, Waikhong and Langmeidong which contain a good proportion of potash and phosphate and moderate quantity of nitrogen and organic matter. These soils are comparatively less acidic in character.
Red Soil: Red soils occupy the major part of Waithou, Tentha, Tekcham, Thongam Mondum and other hilly areas. They are less fertile but contain a good quality of nitrogen and phosphorous. The potash content in the soil is higher while the acidity is medium.

Peaty Soil: These soils are confined in the low lying areas, swamps and marshes namely Karungpat, Ikoppat, Lamjaopat and Pumlenpat areas. Peaty soils are dark grey in colour and clay loam in texture. These soils are acidic in character and contain abundant amount of organic matter. Fair amount of nitrogen, phosphorous and potash is also found in these soils.

Sandy Soil: These soils are characterised with poor content of plant nutrients and poor water holding capacity. They occupy extensive areas around Serou and Sugnu. To some extent, it is suitable for maize and wheat cultivation (Fig. 2.2C).

Climate: The climate of the area is influenced by its location, elevation, surface configuration and seasonal variations of winds. The height of the area varies from 770 m to 900 m above mean sea level. The mean monthly maximum temperature ranges between 24.6°C (January) and 33.7°C (July), while mean monthly minimum temperature in
between 2.3°C (January) and 22.1°C (June). December and January are the coldest months while June and July are the wettest months of year (Fig. 2.3 and Table 2.2).

**Rainfall:** Rainfall begins from the first week of February. But excessive rainfall takes place during the months of summer season. Heavy rain which commences in month of April, continues up to the month of September. Sometimes, it extends up to the month of October and November.

July registers the highest amount of rainfall (231.9 mm), in the area as against the lowest (10.00 mm) in the month of December. The winter months account a small amount of rainfall. Thus, the distribution of amount of rainfall in the district, exhibits significant seasonal variation. Depending upon the variations in rainfall, temperature etc. and related phenomena, four seasons may easily be noticed in the year, e.g.

A. Seasons of the north-east monsoon

   (i) winter season (December to February) and
   (ii) summer season (March to April).

B. Seasons of the south-west monsoon

   (iii) Rainy season (May to September) and
   (iv) Retreating Monsoon season (October to November).
Winter Season: The months of December, January and February envisage the characteristics of the cold winter season. A steep fall in temperature can be marked in the month of December. The mean minimum temperature goes down to 3.3°C and 2.3°C in the month of December and January, respectively. The January represents the coldest month of the season with a temperature range of 22.3°C. The mean monthly maximum and minimum temperature for this month comes to 24.6°C and 2.3°C, respectively. During the cold winter season, cold mild northerly and north easterly winds prevail in the area. Fogs are very common during the winter, specially in the river valleys (Singh, R.P., 1982, p.30).

Slight frost is common while rainfall is occasional during this season. Amount of annual rainfall of the year can be predicted by the trend of the first thunder sound occurred in month of February. It is known as Kumtamba in Manipur.

Summer Season: The commencement of this season takes place in the early March which can be marked by a sudden increase in temperature, vanishing fog and occasional thunder showers. Mornings are cool and pleasant while afternoons are generally hot and cloudy. Sometimes hailstorms also occur during this season. The interaction of
north westerly, southerly and north-easterly airmasses, causes instability resulting severe thunderstorms extensively, sometimes associated with dust raising squalls (Singh, RP, 1982, p.31). With the advance of the season, the amount and frequency of rainfall increases leading to rainy season. The summer rains are generally associated with afternoon or evening showers.

**Rainy Season:** Rainy season is the longest season of the year which extends from May to September. July is the wettest month of the year (Fig.2.3 and Table 2.2). Average amount of rainfall for this month comes to 23.2 cm. The months of June, July, August and September receive heavy rains. About 50 per cent of annual rainfall takes place during this season only. The passage of the south west monsoon which begins from the third week of May, cause heavy rain and frequent floods in the season.

**Retreating Monsoon Season:** The south westerly winds become feeble by the end of September. The following two months experience the retreating monsoon. The amount of rainfall slightly increases in the month of October as compared to preceding month. It rapidly decreases to 67.7 mm in the month of November. The temperature comes down gradually and sky becomes clear. Days are very bright and weather
Table 1.2  Temperature and precipitation at Thoubal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Maximum temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Minimum temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Average temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Range of temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Rainfall (in cm)</th>
<th>Wet bulb temp. in °C</th>
<th>R.H. in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>13.45</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>55.93</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>3.87</td>
<td>58.42</td>
<td>74.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>63.69</td>
<td>71.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aprl.</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>22.45</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>68.93</td>
<td>80.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>23.35</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>11.32</td>
<td>73.04</td>
<td>84.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun.</td>
<td>33.7</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>21.15</td>
<td>75.82</td>
<td>88.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul.</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>75.58</td>
<td>89.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>27.05</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>15.22</td>
<td>75.67</td>
<td>92.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>25.55</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>14.64</td>
<td>74.85</td>
<td>91.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>11.03</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>91.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>18.05</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>6.43</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>86.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>56.48</td>
<td>90.3e</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Average  

|                      | 30.22 | 12.35 | 21.29 | 17.86 | 11.2 | 67.74 | 85.17 |

Standard Deviation  

|                      | 3.2   | 7.4   | 5.1   | 4.6   | 7.2  | 7.5   | 7.0   |

Source: Rice Research Station, Wangbal.
bright and sunny while nights are cool and pleasant. Intense rains in October cause flood and testify, the Manipuri saying *Meragi Ichao*, which means that flood may occur sometime in the month of October.

**Vegetation**: The natural vegetation of the area consists mainly of shrubs, bamboos and small trees. Forests are confined mostly in the hilly regions. Due to climatic and edaphic factors of the forests, the trees have stunted growth.

The forests occupy 88.58 km² area of the district. They may be classified as protected and Reserved forests. Protected forests occupy an area of 59.5 km² which comes to 67.2 per cent of the total forest area. The reserved forests account an area of 29.09 km² and constitute 32.8 per cent of the forest area.

The important species of trees which are available in the district are Sahi (*Astanopsis indica*), Oak, Tairel (*Cidrela toona, Mircarpa, Februfuga, toonwood* etc.), Tejpat (*Cinamonom tomalia*). The Yongchak (Tree bean) is commonly found in the hills of Waithou, Lilong and Kakching etc. Heinou (*Mangifera indica* - Mango) is an important fruit and used as fuel. *Pinus longifolia* (*Uchan*) is a good
THOUBAL DISTRICT
CLIMATIC VARIABLES

A. RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION

B. HYHERGRAPH

C. TEMPERATURE VARIABLES

D. CLIMOGRAPH

Fig. 2-3
quality timber as well as fuel. \textit{Tera} (\textit{Salmalic malabarica}) is extensively used for match splists and boxes.

The shrub species are reed, weed and other smaller species of trees. The eatable species of the area are \textit{Agaricus} (Uyel), \textit{Schezophyllun} (Kanglayen), \textit{Auricularia} (Uchina), Ferns (Changkhrang), \textit{Cycas} (Yendang) and \textit{Schima Wallichii} (Usoi) (Fig. 2.2D).

\textbf{Cultural Background}

\textbf{Distribution of Settlement}

Level and fertile plain with a number of favourable factors contributed in development of present settlement system. Fig. 2.4 reveals that the northern half of the study area is densely settled while rest is characterised by isolated and small settlements. The settlements of the northern portion exhibit a linear tendency to concentrate along the important rivers such as Imphal and Irl and in the N-W. part along the Thoubal river. Such pattern is evident in the northern section of Wangjing, Heirok, and its tributaries and the Sekmai river in the central part (compare with drainage map)(Fig.2.2B).

The settlements in the southern part have a tendency to locate along the transport arteries e.g. Langmei-dong, Elangkhangpokpi, Waikhong, Kakching Khunou, Sugnu etc.
Different *pats* with their adjoining swamps are generally devoid of settlements, due to their frequent inundation during the rainy season.

The eastern part of the area is sparsely settled. Isolated and small settlements can easily be noticed which may be due to its adverse socio-economic conditions.

Generally settlements exhibit a linear pattern which are situated along the water fronts or transport arteries whereas compact settlements can be noticed at Heirok pt.II, Kakching, Thoubal etc.

**Size of Settlement**

There are one hundred and five inhabited villages in the study area. Table 2.3 indicates the number of different size of settlements in the district. Sixteen villages record a population more than 3000 which constitute 14.29% villages. Eleven villages have a population from 2,000 to 2,999. Twenty eight settlements which constitute 25.00% of units have a population between 1000 to 1999. There are twenty five villages which have a population range of 500-999 and nineteen villages from 200 to 499. Merely six villages have a population less than 200 persons.
The size of population is one of the important factors which determine the clustering of different services. Significant break in population size indicates that higher function may not exist in settlements having lower population. At the same time, the higher level settlements have a tendency to embrace most of the higher functions.

Table 2.3 Number and size of settlements (1981).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Population size group</th>
<th>Number of settlements</th>
<th>Per cent of settlements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Below 200</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>200 - 499</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>500 - 999</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>1000 - 1999</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>2000 - 2999</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>3000 and Above</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>UV</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>112</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on District Census Handbook of Thoubal District.

About 9.06% of the total area comes under land not available for cultivation. The per cent of this land use is
comparatively higher as compared to other areas for example Middle Ganga Plain, as people have a tendency to have spacious house for their residence along with their cattleshed. However, this figure is comparable with the Brahmaputra valley. Every household has a tendency to have his own pond for washing and cleaning purposes.

**Houses**: Houses in rural areas are generally constructed with mud, woods, bamboos etc. but in the urban areas such houses are being replaced by modern type of buildings made of bricks, stones and cement. The walls are usually of reed, plastered with mud and cowdung. The roofs are covered by thatch, straws etc. All the dwelling houses face toward the east so that it may get plenty of sunlight, fresh air etc. to make hygienic environment. The houses comprise of three to five rooms. The head of the house is generally father or grandfather. The houses are fenced by wooden and bamboo palisades to make safety from wild beasts and animals and to protect their own properties and garden. Houses with its cattleshed, kitchen, varandah, courtyard and backyard with one acre of land are considered fit for settlement of one family.
Social Structure

The past history of Manipur reveals the social structure in the area. The people may be classed as the Hindus, Meiteis, Tribals and the Muslims. There is no racial difference between the Hindus and the Tribals—the dwellers in the plains and the dwellers in the hills, but only a difference in religion. The Meiteis are supposed to be the descendants of four old tribes, namely Khuman, Luwang, Moirang and Meitei. They lived mostly in the alluvial plains of Manipur.

Further, the Meiteis are divided into seven salais (gotras). They are Khuman, Luwang, Mangang, Moirang, Ningthouja, Angom and Khabanganba. They did not allow the intermarriage and fought among themselves for supremacy. The Ningthouja subdued the other clans and became the king. The seven clans were further subdivided into Brahman, Gomate, Kshetriya, Dhobi, Kayastha and Hari. One caste known as Loi recruited mainly for menial work earlier, is almost equivalent to scheduled castes. They appear to belong to a tribe distinct from that of the Meiteis.

Kakching exhibits the largest concentration of Loi families in Thoubal district. Sekmai, Kakching Khunou, Waikhong and Sugnu are other Loi settlements of the district. Lois speak a separate dialect. After Independence
(1947), they have been declared as a scheduled caste getting special facilities for their social and economic upliftment.

The tribals, mainly Kukis, arrived as immigrants during the time of the then political Agent, Colonel Mc Culloch. They were settled to the frontier regions of Manipur as cultivators. They were allotted land at different places. Some of them were made as regular troops while rest remained coolies. Thus, they began to settle in different parts of Manipur. In such way, the tribals, have crossed the hills and confined as the wild wanderers from the nearest frontiers of Mizo Hills, Nagaland and Burma.

The Muslims (Pangals) like the tribals, inhabited as immigrants from the neighbouring Bengal (presently Bangladesh) and Cachar district of Assam. The Muslims are good farmers and major cattle and poultry breeders in the area. They were settled during the reign of Maharaja Chandrakirti of Manipur. They were scattered throughout the valley and later shifted to the south, close to Lilong, Tentha, etc. after Second World War.

Religion: Religious ties and trade links, become stronger with passage of time. The followers of four
distinct religions, i.e., Hindu, Meiteis, Muslims and Christian (Tribals) are identified with their different institutions such as Temple, Laisang, Mosque and Church, respectively. The Meiteis represent a section of Hindus who intend to revive their cultural tradition before adopting Hinduism. Thus, the area has an amalgamation of Manipuri Hindus, Meiteis, Muslims and less concentration of tribal population. Hence, religion has a deep roots in Vaishnavism/ Hinduism, Meiteism, Christianity and Islamic identity. Hindus believe in the Radha-Krishna cult and worship the idols of Radha and Krishna in all the temples. The Meiteis worship the local deities more vigorously. Almost all the tribals follow Christianity excepting the Kabui tribe. Dawn of Christianity literally resembles a transition from darkness to light and abandonment of other forms of cruelty in the tribal society. Thus, Churches have become the centre and pride of the tribal people and even their marriages are performed therein.

The meiteis are simple minded, gentle and courageous. The famous temple of Sree Sree Govindaji of Palace compound is the centre for Vaisnavism in Manipur. Religion is the one way of happy life. The cleanliness of the Meitei houses is exemplary.
Muslims go to the mosque for sake of their Islamic identity. The tribals of the hilly areas have a war like motivation and fearless appearance. Christianity has made a headway in the hill areas of the district. They are in a complete system of westernisation in their social, cultural and religious outlook. It is indicated by the presence of most conspicuous Churches in village or town.

**Distribution of Property**: The Hindu Law of inheritance prevails in Manipur. The property of a person including household land is equally distributed among his sons after he expires. Normally, daughters are not considered for this purpose. But in some extreme cases such as fathers having only daughters or only one daughter among the sons, have given equal property to them all.

The cultural background of the study area may be classified and discussed into three groups, viz. the social, economic and extension services etc. The social elements can be visualised from the specified functions such as education, health and medical and communication facilities. The economic factors include finance, market and transport facilities.
Social Facilities

(a) Education: The provision of educational institutions is indispensable for the rural upliftment of any area. It is one of the basic elements essential for transformation of the socio-economic conditions of rural population. Thus, educational institutions are vital for transformation of the area in general and rural poor and backward classes in particular. The educational institutions consist of different orders such as Primary School, Junior High School, High School, Higher Secondary School and Degree College (Fig. 7.4A)

The study area is served by 325 Primary Schools, which are located in 111 villages of the district. The distribution of the Primary School among different range size of settlements reveals that above a threshold of 775 population, all the villages have this facility. Thus, the remaining villages, which have a population less than 775 are denied of Primary School.

There are 59 Junior High Schools. Out of which 29 are Government, 26 are Aided, while the rests are merely recognised. The threshold population of this facility comes to 2,927.
Settlements above a population of 4,716, have
High School and below which a High School does not exist
in the area. Higher population has led to the develop-
ment of higher level of function in addition to its lower
order functions. The Thoubal sub-division enjoys this
facility within a distance of 5 km. In order to avail
this facility, the children of Kakching sub-division
have to cover a distance more than 5 km. In addition
to this, there are three Higher Secondary Schools in the
area. One of this is located in Kakching while two in
the Thoubal sub-division. There are six colleges which
are located at Lilong, Thoubal, Wangjing, Kakching, Waba-
gai and Kakching Khunou.

Communication Facilities

Means of communication are vital for transmission
of information and recent innovations which are necessary
for development. The post and telegraph facilities con-
stitute the communication system and play an important
role in the rural development. The integrated area
development requires proper and adequate number of postal
and telegraph facilities which are still in blooming stage
in the area (7.10).
The study area is served by 48 Branch Post Office (BPO) and 7 Sub-Post Offices. Presently, one Branch Post Office serves on an average of more than two villages. A Sub-Post Office functions independently while Branch Post Offices operate under the control of its respective Sub-Post Office. The number of Branch Post Offices under different Sub-Post Office is quite imbalanced viz., Thoubal, Kakching, Lilong and Wangjing have 18, 10, 8 and 6 B.P.Os respectively as against Yairipok, Sugnu and Pallel with 3, 2 and 1 only. (Fig. 7.1D).

**Health and Medical**

Medical and health facilities are vital for sustained socio-economic development of the area. Population of the area attains valuable health services from the various medical institutions like Rural Hospital, Primary Health Centre (PHC), Primary Health Sub-Centre (PHSC), Rural Family Welfare Centre (RFWC) and Leprosy Control Unit. These institutions are unable to fulfil the health needs and requirements of the people of the area. As a healthy person may contribute more in the development process of region than unhealthy worker, it is necessary to judge the level of adequacy or inadequacy of health care services.
The district is served by two rural hospitals which are located at Kakching and Thoubal. There are six Primary Health Centres located at Yairipok, Thoubal, Lilong, Kakching, Kakching Khunou and Heirok. Thus, all the higher order health institutions are established in municipal areas and towns. There are 46 PHSCs distributed in the study area. They are not functioning to the full swing as they are provided with one nurse and one attendant each. In addition to these, a number of private practitioners are also rendering health care services to the people of the area (Fig.7.18).

The common diseases prevalent in the district are influenza, dysentery, diarrhoea, respiratory diseases, cough and cold, vitamin deficiency, malaria. Epidemic diseases such as cholera and small pox also occur during particular seasons in different parts of the area. Therefore, the vaccinations of DDT, Polio, BCG, D.T., T.T.(P.W), T.T.(10), T.T.(16), TYPY etc. are used as preventive and curative measures of specific diseases. The existing health and medical facilities are not able to provide necessary health care in absence of qualified doctors, supporting staff and related facilities.
Financial Facilities

The economic history of any country reveals that economic development and growth of financial infrastructure go hand in hand. Without the growth of financial infrastructure, there can be no development while development in turn changes the shape and size of financial institutions (Agarwal, A.K. 1987, 543). The financial institutions make provision for long, medium and short-term credit facilities for development activities and to accelerate the rate of growth and economic development. At present, credit facilities are made available in the area by various branches of Manipur State Co-operative Bank and Manipur Rural Banks. One branch of United Bank of India (UBI), and State Co-Operative Bank (UCB) are discharging its functions at both the sub-divisional Headquarters i.e. at Thoubal and Kakching. There are six branches of Manipur Rural Bank (MRB) located at Kakching, Waikhong, Sugnu, Yairipok, Lilong and Pallel (Fig. 7.10.1C). The study area enjoys credit facility for development activities through various co-operative societies as well (7 in Thoubal and 8 in Kakching Sub-Division) which operate its functions under three leading banks. Besides, these banks use to lend money to its regular customers on the basis of certain considerations and priority.
These banks use to provide short-term crop loans to the scheduled castes and tribes of the area. Long term loans are made available for the farm mechanisation, purchase of automobiles and starting new business and industry. In the year 1987, UBI gave long-term loan for the purchase of four tractors and power tillers each in the area while credit for one tractor and one power tiller was provided by Urban Co-operative Bank.

Marketing Facilities

For marketing of agricultural and allied products it is necessary to ensure a fair price to the farmers and to encourage them to produce more for market (Agarwal, A.K. 1987, 423). The foodgrain enquiry committee rightly observed that the organisation of well regulated and controlled market would facilitate market arrival and thus help in economic development. There are five regular and substantial market centres in the area which are located at Kakching, Thoubal, Lilong, Pallel and Sugnu. They use to play the catalytic role of focal points and act as the centres of diffusion of agricultural innovations. Lilong is famous for its daily retail market, cheap vegetables and export of variety of new materials whereas Kakching is an important grain mandi of Manipur where varieties of rice,
consumables, handicrafts, etc. are marketed. Besides administrative institutions, Thoubal is famous for its retail market facilities. In addition to these, there are many small markets, such as Wangjing, Khongjaom, Yairipok, etc. which are distributed throughout of area (Fig.2.5-B).

Transport

Development of transport is vital for diversification of economy, increased production and resource mobilisation. The length of road per unit area and population forms a significant index of economic development. The existing transport network of the area is not adequate to meet the requirement of rapid growth and economic development. Due to this, rural dwellers of the area are facing problems in all the spheres of their life. Thus, poor development and stagnating socio-economic conditions are significantly influenced by poor interlinkage system. The roads of the area may be classed as National Highway, State Highway, district road and inter-village roads. The existing interlinkage system of the area can be visualized from the Fig.2.5-B.
The length of metalled and unmated roads comes to 131.86 km and 363.00 km, respectively. This leads to the density of roads as 1.22/km² and 2.3 km/10,000 persons in the District.

**Extension Services**

The extension services play an important role in the rapid transformation of economy. The District Commissioner (D.C.) acts as the highest authority involved in taking decisions in administrative affairs with its headquarters at Thoubal. Other extension services including headquarters of Community Development Block, Sub-Divisional Officer, Sub-Deputy Collector, Veterinary Hospitals, Veterinary Dispensaries and Sub-Centres for Intensive Cattle Development Programme (ICDP) etc. are shown in Fig.2.5C. The Sub-Deputy Collector's headquarters of five circles are located at Kakching, Waikhong, Thoubal, Yairipok and Lilong. The headquarters of BDO of the area are located at the two sub-divisions of Kakching and Thoubal. There are six police stations located at Thoubal, Lilong, Sugnu, Waikhong, Yairipok and Wangjing and one police outpost at Pallel. SDP headquarters are located one each at Thoubal and Sugnu while Superintendent of Police (SP) is stationed at Thoubal proper.
TRANSPORT NETWORK AND SERVICES

A. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTITUTIONS

PROPOSED EXISTING
- Settlement
- Police Out Post
- Sub Divisional Police
- Police Station
- Superintendent Of Police
- Sub Deputy Collector
- Block Development/Sub-Division
- Administrative Headquarters

PROPOSED EXISTING
- Settlement
- Inter Village Road
- District Road
- State Highway
- National Highway

C. EXTENSION SERVICES

PROPOSED EXISTING
- Settlement
- Integrated Cattle Development Program
- Veterinary Dispensary
- Veterinary Hospital
- Horticulture Extension Centre
- Agriculture Office
- Block Development Office
- Artificial Immunization Centre
- Rice Research Station

D. MARKETING FACILITIES

PROPOSED EXISTING
- Settlement
- Rural Sub Market
- Regulated Main Market
- Whole Sale Market

Fig. 25
There are 8 veterinary hospitals located at Thoubal Athokpam, Lilong, Kakching, Khongjom, Heirok, Kakching Khunou, Yairipok and Sangai Yumpham. The veterinary dispensaries and sub-centres for Integrated Cattle Development Programmes are distributed throughout the area.

Electricity

The massive production and successful development of any sector of economy requires the availability of cheap power. It is essential to operate machines to its capacity and raise per capita income. Presently, power supply of the area is met by Loktak Hydro-Power Project of Manipur. The electricity is one of the important pre-requisite for development of industries, irrigation, domestic purposes, street lighting, etc. Water lifting for irrigation also requires adequate amount of power supply. Out of the total 112 census villages, 94 villages are electrified, which constitute 83.9% of census units. The electrification has benefitted 25,563 households of electrified villages.