

## CHAPTER - II

### SOCIO - ECONOMIC POSITION OF MANIPUR

#### *Introduction:*

In the previous chapter, we have had an idea of the concept and process of urbanisation. In this chapter we give a picture of the socio-economic position of Manipur, of which urbanisation is the main focus of this study.

#### *Geographical setting:*

Manipur is a land-locked isolated hill girt state having a geographically distinct entity. It is situated in the eastern most part of North-Eastern hilly region of India. It lies between  $97^{\circ} 58'$  and  $94^{\circ} 45'$  E longitudes and  $23^{\circ}50'$  and  $25^{\circ}42'$  N latitudes. The state is almost rectangular in shape. It is one of the smallest states in India having an area of 22,327 Sq. Km. which constitutes only about 0.7 percent of the total area of the Indian union. The state is bounded on the north by Nagaland, on the east by Suna tract and upper Chindwin of Myanmar (Burma), on the south by Chin Hills (Myanmar) and Mizoram and on the west by Cachar district of Assam.

According to the physical features, the state of Manipur can broadly be divided into two natural regions, viz. the hills and the valley. The hills encircling the valley stretch from the north to southern direction with an average height ranging between 1,500-1,800 metres above the mean sea

level. The hills on the northern part of the state are higher and measure around 3,000 metres above the mean sea level (*Idem*).

The valley in the centre is surrounded by rows of hills on all sides. It covers an area of about 2,238 sq. km. constituting only about 10 per cent of the state's total area. The average elevation of the valley is 790m above the mean sea level.

Manipur has two important rivers, viz., (1) the Imphal river (Manipur river) and (2) the Barak river. Besides, there are many small rivers. Loktak lake in the southern part of the valley is the biggest fresh water lake in the North Eastern region of India. During rainy season the lake covers an area of about 260 sq. kms and during the dry season the size of the lake is about 60 sq. km. Besides, there are a number of smaller lakes in the southern portion of the valley.

Manipur is rich in forest resources. Forest covers an area of about 15,154 sq. km. Which forms 67.9 per cent of the total geographical area of the state. Despite the rich flora and fauna the state is poor in mineral resources (*Economic Review-1990-91, p1*).

#### ***The Inhabitants:***

The state is the home of the Manipuris constituting of the Meeteis, the Manipuri Muslims and a number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Meeteis are the valley dwellers and are in considerable majority in the valley. The Muslims are, like the Meiteis, valley dwellers. The Scheduled Castes comprising of the Lois, the Yaithibis and other small

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communities like Dhobi, Muchi or Rabidas, Namsudra, Patni, Sutradhar etc. are found in isolated pockets of the valley (*Ibid. pp. 10-11*).

The Scheduled Tribes are basically the inhabitants of the hills. They are constituted by 29 tribes of Naga and Kuki origin such as Aimol, Anal, Angami, Chiru, Chothe, Gangte, Hmar, Kabui, Kacha-Naga, Koirao, Koireng, Kom, Lamkang, Mizo, Lushai, Maram, Maring, Mao, Monsang, Mayon Paite, Ralte, Sema, Simte, Sathte, Tangkhul, Thadou, Vaiphei and Zou. The Maos concentrate in the Senapati district, the Tangkhuls in the Ukhrul district, the Kabuis in the Tamenglong district and the Anals and the Marings in the Chandel district. The Kukis are scattered all over the hill areas with concentrations in the southern and western hills along the borders with Myanmar(Burma), Mizoram and Assam. The different tribes have their own different dialects customs and costumes. But almost all the tribes are Christians by religion (*Idem*).

Other communities of numerical importance in the state are the Nepalese, the Bengalis, the Jains and the Sikhs . The Biharis, the Bengalis, the Marwaris and the Sikhs are concentrated in the capital city of Imphal which is located almost in the centre of the valley.

**Population:**

The population of Manipur was below three lakhs in 1901 census sharing only about 0.12 per cent of the total population of India. The population kept on increasing and was more than ten lakhs in 1971. In 1991 the state's total population reached 1,837,149 Comprising 0.22 per cent of the population of the Indian Union. Since the 1901 census upto the

1961 census the female population of the state were more than the male population. But from the 1971 census till the last census of 1991, the male population was more than the female population.

In 1991 the valley shared about 64.51 per cent of the state total population out of which Imphal district shared about 38.70 per cent, Thoubal district shared about 15.95 per cent and Bishenpur district shared about 9.80 per cent. Among the hill districts Senapati district shared the highest with 11.32 per cent followed by Churachandpur district with 9.58 per cent and Ukhrul district with 3.93 per cent (Table 2:1).

Out of the total population, Scheduled Castes constituted 1.25 per cent of the total population in 1981 and increased to 2.02 per cent in 1991. Maximum number of Scheduled Castes population concentrated in Imphal district. Regarding the total Scheduled Tribes population, it increased from 27.37 per cent in 1981 to 34.41 per cent in 1991. Senapati district shared the highest tribal population in the state followed by Churachandpur and Ukhrul districts (Table 2:2-A&B).

#### ***Administrative Arrangements:***

Manipur, earlier an independent princely state came under the rule of British India in 1891. With the independence of the country in 1947, Manipur also became independent like the other native states. Interestingly, Manipur merged with the Indian Union on the 15th October, 1949 and Manipur became a Part 'C' state of the Indian Union with the adoption of the Indian Constitution from 26th January 1950. Then in 1963

Table 2:1 Total population of Manipur by sex (1901 - 1991)

Year	Persons	male	Female
1901	284465	139632	144839
1911	346222	170666	175556
1921	384016	188119	195891
1931	445606	2185815	227791
1941	512069	249183	262886
1951	577635	283685	293950
1961	780037	387058	392979
1971	1072753	541675	531078
1981	1420953	721006	699947
1991	1837149	931308	905841

Sources:- *Census of India 1981, series 13 (Manipur) pat X - A.*

*Census of India 1991, Final population Tables.*

Table 2.2 - A  
Total, scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes populations by sex, 1981

Districts.	1981										
	Total Population			Scheduled castes			Scheduled Tribes				
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female		
1. Imphal	929,077	465,563	462,514	17,146	8,734	8,412	24,141	12,578	11,563		
2. Chandel (Tangnoupal)	56,444	29,174	27,270	187	102	85	38,430	19,372	19,058		
3. Chuchandpur (South District)	134,776	69,875	64,901	109	67	24	116,254	58,847	57,407		
4. Senapati (North)	155,421	80,583	74,838	271	141	130	105,655	53,461	5,2191		
5. Tamenglong (west)	62,289	31,538	30,751	7	5	2	29,259	14,603	14,656		
6. Urkhlul (East)	82,946	43,273	39,673	33	26	7	74,238	37,591	36,647		
Total :	1,420,953	721,006	699,947	17,753	9,075	8,678	387,977	196,455	191,522		

Source : Census of India - 1981, series - 136, Part - II - B (Manipur), primary census Abstract.

Total 2:2 - B Total Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Populations by Sex, 1991

District	1991																	
	Total Population						Scheduled Castes						Scheduled Tribes					
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	male	Female						
1. Bishnupur	1804773	91125	89648	2333	1147	1186	9575	5167	4408									
2. Imphal	711261	360566	350695	22764	11526	11238	33900	17660	13240									
3. Thoubal	293958	148432	145526	11044	5521	5523	2844	1543	1301									
4. Chandel	71014	37118	33896	237	136	101	66729	30691	30038									
5. Churampur	176184	91218	84966	301	210	91	164709	83760	80949									
6. Senapati	208406	107310	101096	172	100	72	175206	89103	86103									
7. Tamenglong	86278	44593	41685	33	22	11	83332	42531	40801									
8. Urkhul	109275	57997	51278	221	144	77	101878	52265	49613									
Totale.	1837149	938359	898790	37105	18806	18299	632173	322720	309453									

Sources: Directorate of Economical and Statistics - Population of Manipur - 1991.  
Census of India 1991 (Manipur). Final Population Totals (Unpublished).

Manipur became a union territory. Finally Manipur attained its full-fledged statehood on 21st January 1972.

Prior to 1969, Manipur was single district territory and from 1969 to 1971 Manipur had only five districts. The districts were again divided into different administrative units or sub-divisions. The five districts and their units were as follows :-

1. Manipur Central District having eight administrative units (Sub-divisions), viz., (a) Imphal East, (b) Imphal West (c) Thoubal (d) Bishenpur (e) Chandel (f) Tengnoupal (g) Chakpikarong, and (h) Jiribam.
2. Manipur East District having five administrative units, viz., (a) Ukhrul (b) Phungyar Phaisat (c) Kamjong Chassad (d) Ukhrul North and (e) Ukhrul South.
3. Manipur West District with four administrative units, viz., (a) Nungba (b) Tamenglong West (c) Tamenglong and (d) Tamenglong North.
4. Manipur North District with three administrative units, viz., (a) Sadar Hills (b) Mao West and (c) Mao East.
5. Manipur South District with five administrative units viz., (a) Churachandpur (b) Churachandpur North (Henglep) (c) Singhat (d) Thalon and (e) Tipaimukh.



In January 1972 Manipur became a full fledged state of the Indian Union. In 1974 there was a major change at the district level with the formation of a new district, namely Tengnoupal district with its three administrative units of (a) Tengnoupal, (b) Chandel and (c) Chakpikarong. (*Census Atlas, 1981.*)

In May 1983 Manipur Central District was again divided into three districts and thereby increasing the number of districts to eight, namely (1) Imphal District, (2) Bishenpur District, (3) Thoubal District, (4) Senapati District, (5) Tamenglong District, (6) Churachandpur District, (7) Chandel District and (8) Ukhrul District [Manipur Gazette, August, 1983]. In August 1997, Imphal District was again divided into two districts, viz., (1) Imphal East District and (2) Imphal West District. Thus Manipur now has nine districts.

***Linkage with Other Areas:***

Manipur is connected with other parts of the country through the National Highway No. 39 (Imphal Dimapur Road) and National Highway No. 53 (New Cachar Road). The railhead at Jiribam Sub-division is connected by the New Cachar Road and the railhead at Dimapur in Nagaland is connected by the Imphal Dimapur Road. The Indian Airlines is already connecting the state by air with the rest of the country.

***Economy:***

The economy of the state is an agrarian one. According to the census of 1991 about 68.4 per cent of the total main workers of the State are engaged in agriculture for their livelihood. Out of the total geographical

area of 22.3 lakh hectares, an area of about 2.1 lakh hectares are under cultivation. This area is cultivated mostly by small and marginal farmers . As regards crop-mix, Paddy is the main crop covering about 188,055 hectares of cultivated land area accounting for about 82 per cent of the gross cropped area followed by Maize covering only about 4 per cent of the gross cropped area and growing mainly in the hills. Other crops produced in the state are Potato, Chilli, Pulse, Oilseed, Sugarcane, Cabbage etc. Fishery is also important giving employment to a sizeable number of population. Fish industry constitutes about 2 per cent of the total State Domestic product, (*Economic Review, 1990 - 91* ).

The State is very backward industrially. The backwardness is mainly due to her geographical location and the poorly developed infrastructure. The industrial units in the State like the Cement Plant at Hundung ( Ukhrul district ) is not functioning and have stopped producing. The Khansari Sugar Factory at Khangabok (Thoubal district) is also not able to produce at the maximum target. The Sugar Factory and Distillery Plants at Kabowakching (Bishenpur district), Tasar Industry have not started functioning properly. The Bamboo Chipping and Pulp and Paper Industry at Jiribam (Imphal district) and the Manipur Spinning Mill Corporation Ltd. at Loitangkunou (Imphal district) are also facing problems and cannot function properly. The overall economic viability has become a big question.

Manipur has made significant progress in the field of village and small scale industries which are labour intensive. These industries are

found to be quit suitable to the structure and nature of the economy which usually faces the problem of the lack of capital. (*Idem*)

The State Domestic Product (SDP) which is the State income is the most important indicator for the structure of a state's economy. A picture of the SDP of Manipur is given in Table 2:3 and 2:4. The Net State Domestic Product of Manipur at current prices was Rs. 200.9 crosses in 1980 - 81 and it increased to Rs. 760.53 crores in 1991 - 92. During the same period the per capita income rose from Rs. 1,425 to Rs. 4,180. The Net State Domestic Product at constant (1980-81) prices was Rs. 260.2 Crores in 1991 - 92.

The all India per capita Net National Product at current prices was Rs. 1,625 in 1980 - 81 and it increased to Rs. 4,284 in 1989 - 90. The all India per capita Net National Product at constant (1980-81) prices was estimated at Rs. 1,625 for 1980 - 81 and it increased to 2,169 in 1989 - 90.

It is observed that the estimates of the State Domestic Product reflect little change in the economic Structure of the State. But from the observation of the NSDP table (2:3 and 2:4) it can be inferred that despite the fluctuations in the contributions of the various sectors to the State Domestic Product, agriculture and allied activities still continue to dominate the State economy. The fluctuations are rather due to the changes in the primary sector. The relative importance of the different sectors viz. Primary, Secondary and Tertiary as observed from table 2:7 is that the percentage contribution of the Net State Domestic Product by the tertiary sector is increasing every year and since 1984-85 the percentage

contribution by the tertiary sector is more than the primary sector. As for the secondary sector the percentage contribution is quite low and even if it increases every year it is almost negligible.

As a consequence of lack of growth of the secondary sector the state of Manipur largely depends on goods produced outside the state. Almost all the industrial products and household appliances are imported from outside the state. (*census of India-1961, p.215*). Though Manipur is an agrarian economy the state is still importing many agricultural products like Wheat, Rice, Pulses, Onion, etc. The state also imports other commodities like mustard oil, vegetable Ghee, Salt, Atta, Moida etc. In other words Manipur depends almost entirely on other states for most of the essential commodities. The only few items which the state is exporting are Maize, Chilli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Gur, Dalchini, etc. It is exporting some forest products and also some handloom goods (*Economic-Review-1990-91*).

Table 2.3. Net State Domestic Product of Manipur by Industry of Origin at Current Prices from 1980-81 to 1991-92. (Rs. in lakhs).

Industry of Origin	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1. Agriculture including livestock	9090	11198	11480	14078	15882	15862	18583	21180	22765	23530	25659	28919
2. Forestry and logging	486	629	630	988	911	865	863	833	1132	1251	1128	1145
3. Fishing	216	233	283	312	356	517	551	749	955	1386	1612	2090
4. Mining and Quarrying												
PRIMARY: Sub- Total	9792	12060	12393	15378	17150	17245	19998	22763	24854	26168	28400	32155
5. Manufacturing	948	1681	1414	2965	2468	2224	2780	2871	2783	1844	2000	2000
5.1 Registered	58	323	118	96	300	174	185	99	104	99	107	107
5.2 Un-Registered	890	1358	1296	1869	2168	2050	2595	2772	2679	1745	1893	1893
6. Construction	1306	1296	1392	1421	1596	2344	3168	4046	5344	5290	57778	6272
7. Electricity, gas and water supply	(-591)	(-710)	(-851)	(-1044)	(-524)	390	(-291)	21	378	332	370	370
SECONDARY: Sub-Total	1663	2267	1955	2342	3540	4958	5657	6938	8505	7466	8148	8642
8. Transport, Storage & Communication	259	516	654	850	862	1009	1197	1374	1885	2130	2171	2171
8.1. Railways												
8.2. Transport by other means	255	465	592	777	798	940	1099	1229	1727	1928	1928	1928
8.3. Storage	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
8.4. Communication	38	49	60	71	62	67	95	142	155	199	240	240
9. Trade, Hotels and Restaurants	1061	1244	1337	1740	2029	2083	2382	2638	2927	3048	3298	3705
10. Banking and Insurance	247	234	229	251	279	394	524	608	708	982	1150	1150
11. Real Estate, ownership of Dwelling and Business Services	2558	2857	3205	3443	3668	4044	4479	4840	6243	7712	8150	8652
12. Public Administration	1998	2364	2855	3060	3453	3881	4580	6636	9122	8931	10039	10683
13. Other Services	2476	2728	3193	3604	4348	6062	4237	5017	6733	7737	8059	8895
TERTIARY: Sub- Total	8635	9643	11473	12948	14639	15473	17399	21113	27618	30540	32867	35256
Total State Domestic Product	20090	24270	25821	30668	35329	37676	43054	50814	60976	64174	69415	76053

Source: Directorate of Economic &amp; Statistics, Govt. of Manipur.

Table 2.4 Net State Domestic Product of Manipur by Industry of Origin at Constant (1980-81) Prices from 1980-81 to 1991-92 (Rs. in lakhs)

Industry of Origin	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1. Agriculture including livestock	9090	9284	8972	9554	9801	10143	9798	9745	9826	9807	10660	11909
2. Forestry and logging	486	515	535	754	700	659	662	549	606	671	576	583
3. Fishing	216	253	314	354	404	435	498	818	867	1242	1422	1674
4. Mining and Quarrying					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
PRIMARY Sub-Total	9792	10052	9821	10662	10906	11238	10959	11113	11300	11721	12659	14167
5. Manufacturing	948	1005	1035	1103	1200	1309	1432	1536	1674	1817	1967	2154
5.1. Registered	58	64	69	73	80	87	95	101	109	118	124	124
5.2. Un-Registered	890	941	966	1030	1120	1222	1337	1435	1565	1699	1843	2030
6. Construction	1306	1449	1482	1606	1717	1834	1893	2068	2206	2356	2593	2913
7. Electricity, gas and water supply	(-) 591	(-) 561	(-) 590	(-) 602	(-) 609	(-) 614	(-) 783	(-) 856	(-) 835	(-) 835	(-) 835	(-) 835
SECONDARY Sub-Total	1663	1893	1927	2107	2308	2529	2542	2748	3045	3338	3725	4232
8. Transport, Storage and Communication	295	387	444	518	624	696	940	1200	1262	1462	1604	1714
8.1. Railways												
8.2. Transport by other means	255	346	404	473	573	645	889	1140	1207	1406	1546	1656
8.3. Storage	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
8.4. Communication	38	39	38	43	49	49	49	58	53	54	56	56
9. Trade, Hotels and Restaurants	1061	1087	1057	1143	1165	1198	1162	1230	1187	1227	1323	1474
10. Banking and Insurance	247	209	196	192	220	288	395	506	550	690	746	746
11. Real Estate, ownership of Dwelling and Business Services	2558	2901	3001	3116	3235	3370	3517	3676	3816	4002	4195	4406
12. Public Administration	1998	2102	2284	2569	2679	2929	3083	3359	3702	3712	3906	4329
13. Other Services	2476	2605	2830	3184	3320	3630	3820	4162	4588	4660	4841	5363
TERTIARY Sub-Total	8635	9291	9812	10722	11243	12111	12917	14133	15105	15693	16615	18032
Total State Domestic Product	20090	21236	21560	23491	24457	25878	26418	27994	29450	30752	32999	36431

Source - Directorate of Economics &amp; Statistics, Govt. of Manipur.

Table 2:5 Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices

Year	Per Capita Income	
	All India	Manipur
1980-81	1625	1425
1981-82	1855	1682
1982-83	2010	1745
1983-84	2313	2020
1984-85	2523	2270
1985-86	2745	2362
1986-87	2977	2636
1987-88	3319	3040
1988-89	3908	3568
1989-90	4284	3674
1990-91	N.A.	3893
1991-92	N.A.	4180

Source: - Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Manipur.

Table 2:6 Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Constant (1980-81) Prices.

Year	Per Capita Income	
	All India	Manipur
1980-81	1625	1429
1981-82	1687	1472
1982-83	1697	1457
1983-84	1801	1547
1984-85	1827	1571
1985-86	1858	1623
1986-87	1889	1618
1987-88	1933	1675
1988-89	2105	1723
1989-90	2169	1761
1990-91	N.A.	1850
1991-92	N.A.	2002

Source :- Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Manipur.



Table 2: 7 Percentage Contribution of Net State Domestic Product  
by Sector of Origin at Constant (1980-81) Prices.

Year	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	NSDP
1980-81	48.85	8.26	42.89	100.00
1981-82	47.04	9.78	43.18	100.00
1982-83	44.95	10.53	44.52	100.00
1983-84	44.73	10.64	44.63	100.00
1984-85	43.81	11.38	44.81	100.00
1985-86	42.60	11.86	45.54	100.00
1986-87	40.99	10.79	48.22	100.00
1987-88	39.15	11.13	49.72	100.00
1988-89	37.88	11.48	50.64	100.00
1989-90	36.02	12.50	51.48	100.00
1990-91	34.79	13.25	51.96	100.00

Source :- Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Manipur.