"THE ADMINISTRATION OF JAILS IN ASSAM (1874 to 1964)"
covers a period of more than ninety years. The present study
starts with 1874 when Assam was constituted into a Chief
Commissioner's Province. 1964 is a great landmark in the history
of jail administration in Assam. In that year the Open Air
Agricultural-cum-Industrial Colony at Jorhat was established.
It is intended to reform the criminals.

Jail administration is of great importance, because,
it is the custodian of prisoners. At present, it is also respon-
sible for their reformation. Thus, jail administration contributes
a good deal for the establishment of a peaceful social order. The
aim of jail administration has changed totally in modern times.
In the past, it was punitive. Today, it is principally reforma-
tory. The object of our study is to focus the attention of all
concerned on the importance of the subject.

The rapid growth of prison population has become
a disturbing factor in these days. It is a result of social
disorder. Socio-economic factors are also responsible to a
great extent for the increase in the number of prisoners.

The present work consists of twenty chapters.
Each chapter deals with a particular aspect of jail administration.

Chapter I traces the development of jail adminis-
tration in Assam. There is also a reference to the jail admini-
stration in ancient India.
Chapter II deals with the classification of jails. The principles of classification of jails have been elaborately discussed in this chapter.

Chapter III discusses the accommodating capacity of prisoners in different jails. This chapter deals with the problem of overcrowding and suggests measures for the solution of this vital problem.

Chapter IV deals with prison-discipline. It discusses prison offences and punishment of prisoners.

Chapter V deals with the classification of prisoners which is of great importance for their individual treatment. The principles of classification have also been discussed in it. Moreover, this chapter deals with the segregation of prisoners in jails.

Chapter VI discusses the procedures for admission, transfer and release of prisoners.

Chapter VII deals with under-trial and lunatic prisoners. This chapter points out the problems created by these two classes of prisoners in jail administration. Many suggestions have been given for the solution of these problems.

Chapter VIII discusses the conditions of life of prisoners. It deals with other matters like religion, sex, education and previous occupation of prisoners.

Chapter IX deals with the daily life of a prisoner. A prisoner leads a routine-life in jail. This chapter discusses how a prisoner can spend his prison-life fruitfully.
Chapter X deals with the health of prisoners. It discusses the sanitary measures taken for the maintenance of the sound health of prisoners.

Chapter XI elaborately discusses the organisation of the Jail Department. It deals with appointment, promotion, and transfer of the jail officials. It also deals with the appointment of visitors and convict officers and the part played by them in the administration of jails. In addition, the day-to-day administration of a jail is discussed in this chapter.

Chapter XII deals with the duties and privileges of prison officials.

Sentences of various kinds are inflicted upon prisoners by the courts of law. These sentences must be executed according to rules. These matters have been discussed in Chapter XIII. It also deals with the remission system which is very much helpful in the reformation of prisoners.

Chapter XIV deals with reformatory activities. Many corrective and reformative measures have been introduced in jails. This chapter covers all these aspects of jail administration.

Chapter XV deals with the establishment, growth and development of the Open Air Agricultural-cum-Industrial Colony, Jorhat. It is a great step forward for the reformation of prisoners.

Chapter XVI deals with jail accounts. A huge amount of money is spent annually for the maintenance of prisoners. This chapter also deals with jail expenditure.
Chapter XVII deals with the jail industries and the use of jail man-power. It discusses how prisoners are kept busy and trained in some useful arts and trades. The jails require a huge quantity of vegetables. Thus, this chapter deals with the maintenance of jail garden also.

Chapter XVIII discusses how the jail administration is controlled.

Chapter XIX deals with inter-departmental relations. The Jail Department is one of the branches of the Government of Assam and as such it is related to all other departments. For its proper functioning, it requires the assistance and cooperation of other departments. All these things have been discussed in this chapter.

Chapter XX contains the conclusions arrived at by the present writer at different places.

Materials for this thesis have been collected from many sources, original and secondary. A part of the materials was collected by way of visits to jails and interviews with jail personnel, prisoners and others.

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