PREFACE

The work is an attempt to trace the different aspects of Communist Movement in North East India with special reference to Hijam Irawat Singh. The period covers for the study is broadly from 1936-1959; however, focus is more on 1943-1959. Though, much has been written on Irawat – his life, contribution to socio-cultural activities, political economy, and so on, there are still some areas which are not so clear. This work shall try to look the Communist Movement under the banner of CPI in the region, participated and led by Irawat from a Marxist perspective; at the same time also try to explore some hitherto uncovered areas.

The whole thesis is divided into six chapters including the introduction and conclusion. The first chapter begins with the introduction of the life of Irawat, statement of the problem, a brief and general theoretical outline of Marxism, review of literature, objectives of the research, methodology, research questions and chapterisation.

In the second chapter, the genesis of the Communist Movement in the North East region has been discussed. For getting a better perspective, it begins with the brief statement on the geographical area of the region, the logic of annexation of the entire region under the Capitalist Imperialism, the Communists’ disagreement with this logic, factors causing for the rise of Communist Movement, the upsurge of the national awakening especially among the working class and the peasants.

The third chapter looks into various factors for the social reformer Irawat to become a Communist. It also reveals intellectual growth of Irawat after becoming a Communist. It explores into various aspects of Communist Movement in the entire North East region for the period of 1943-1946.

The fourth chapter discusses the socio-political movement of Irawat after he returned to Manipur from imprisonments and exile after more than 5 years in the month of March, 1946. It explores the subtle nuances that he displayed during the course of movements led by him, without expressly using Communist terminologies. It examines the democratic
principles of Irawat, for which he struggled particularly in Manipur and North East region in general. It covers the period from March 1946-September 1948.

The fifth chapter discusses the underground phase of the Communist Movement in Manipur and its neighbouring areas. It examines the impact of the different national and international developments of the Communist Movement to the regional committees (POCs and D.O.C.s). It examines the role of Irawat in furthering the cause of the movement in Manipur and Assam as well as in bringing unity to various Communist parties in Burma (Myanmar). The period covers from September 1948-the last part of 1959.

The sixth chapter is the conclusion of the thesis which provides an overview of the entire discussion and summarises the preceding chapters. It provides an insight into various factors contributing to the growth or retrogression of the Communist Movement in the region. They are succinctly put as the observations and major findings of the research.

Date: 24/02/18

Place: Gwarakesi

(SAIKHOM RONEL SINGH)