Chapter VII

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In the foregoing chapters, various issues on district administration in Manipur especially after statehood in 1972, have been examined. They have thrown light into the various political, legal and economic aspects of district administration. The work undertaken had focussed chiefly on the growth and functional structures of district administration as well as revenue, planning and law and order of the districts.

Administration in some form or the other existed since ancient times. With the passage of time, increase of district population has been taken as the standard unit of administrative division. Inspite of invasions, conquests and annexations and even political changes, the districts in India through the centuries remained intact as the principal territorial unit of administration. When the British ruled India for over 150 years, they also used district as the basic unit of administration. In fact, they were the one who introduced many modifications and systems for improvement of the existing district administration. Independent India too kept district as the basic unit of administration. After Independence, with the tremendous increase of the governmental activities, there was a metamorphosis of its functions, with many new developmental function added.

The position of the district administration in Manipur particularly since statehood i.e. from 1972 onwards has undergone many phases and involved into a well-defined institution functioning with its multifarious activities. Thus, through a gradual process of administration, Manipur has reached the present status. However, it started in one form or other in an unorganised way from the ancient period while Manipur was a princely state under the control and management of Meitei rulers of this native land. There was, however, no proper
demarcation of districts for administrative purposes. It is evident from the fact that Manipur was regarded as a district in 1961 census, while it was a union territory.

As a practice which are common to other parts of India, Manipur had also carried out district administration for administrative convenience by introducing various administrative changes and alterations. The earlier rulers of this state carried out the administration of the districts by dividing the whole region into: (a) Urban, (b) Rural and (3) Hills.

In 1949, Manipur became a chief commissioner’s province and the entire province was treated as a single district and placed under the charge of a Deputy Commissioner. It was only in 1969, for better administration, the Chief Commissioner ordered the creation of five districts, viz, Manipur Central, Manipur West, Manipur North, Manipur South and Manipur East. Further changes in boundaries of some sub-divisions and districts were made by the Government of Manipur on 14 February, 1972 to accommodate the claims and counter claims of the tribal communities. In 1983 the central district of Manipur was divided to create three more districts of the valley i.e. Thoubal, Bishenpur and Imphal. Thus at present the state has 9 districts along with thirty-eight subdivisions. The Imphal district is bifurcated into Imphal East and Imphal West District in 1998-99.

The assumption that district administration after the introduction of popular government has become more democratic is not wholly true. As a matter of fact, popular government is not the only criteria that determines the character of a government. There are other important criteria such as the people’s participation, nature of the administrators etc. Power is found to be concentrated in the hands of the DC/ADC and other officers who are supposed to be the functioning heads of the departments at the district level. The bureaucrats are more or less authoritarian and are least bothered about people’s participation. There are several instances where the behaviour of a district development officer or a panchayat executive officer or a welfare development officer behaved exactly the way that a police or a
revenue officer would behave. The welfare officers exhibit no concern towards the very sections for whose sake they have been recruited.

As the administrative culture and the attitude have been hostile to welfare, development and change have failed. There is an all-round resentment with the administrative performance. The masses who expected an improvement in their living conditions, stand thoroughly disillusioned. This led to tremendous restlessness and also violence. Though the civil servants tried to accommodate local interests, the style of functioning is based on the guidelines of national policies. As a result the decision-makers of the districts are more or less influenced by the dictates of the national government. Therefore, the decision-making process at the district level is not entirely called to be democratic. The districts of the State are financially poor and indebted to the Central Government. Perhaps this may be the reason for Centre’s dominance on the state/district administration. However, of late there is evidence of some change from the earlier trend. The ultimate aim and desire of the people is the perfectly decentralized administration so as to benefit the people equally. The district administration delegates some powers and functions of administration to the Municipalities, Town Committees, Village Panchayats and District Councils of the hill areas of Manipur. The various people’s representatives are empowered to discharge the responsibilities of welfare and developmental functions as they are considered more well-acquainted with the sentiments and feelings of the people of their respective localities. People’s welfare is the spirit and philosophy of a democratic government. Accordingly, it is to look into all developmental processes including district administration and administrative changes corresponding to the needs of the different sections of the society. As such, district administration at present are ready to adapt to the changing situations according to the administrative convenience.

For example, a large democratic country like India, the fruits of democracy i.e. the general welfare of the people should percolate even to the grassroot level or the village level.
This task is entrusted in the hands of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The scheme of Panchayati Raj Institutions as a part of the devolution of powers in the hands of the people themselves through their elected representatives was initially started in 1903 on an experimental basis in the five panchayat areas in the valley of Manipur. Panchayati Raj Institutions is to take care of the village plan for development. The PRI's is always evolved with changes and modifications for improvement to suit to the changing circumstances of life at the village level, keeping in view of the social, economic and political needs and requirement of the people.

However, the present working system of the PRI's is not satisfactory. They are found to be functioning just for name's sake as these bodies have not been entrusted with the responsibilities and functions given in the Manipur Panchayat Raj Act 1975. Compared to the working of the Panchayats in the valley region, the District Councils in the hills region are functioning more efficiently.

But, recently many steps have been taken up by the Central Government to revive and invigorate the panchayats by introducing various schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna, etc. Under these schemes, the PRI's are expected to play a significant role in bringing welfare of the rural masses and uplifting the status of the poor villages. They are aided financially by both the Centre and the State Governments in partnership, contributing their respective shares of the expenditure.

Any developmental activities of the state/districts has its linkage with the state of law and order of the state. The poor law and order condition has an inverse impact in achieving development goals of a state. The progress of development are halted owing to the disturbed law and order situations of the region. As a result of the much affected law and order problems, new investments do not come forth and the old investments tends to be pulled out. The foreign investors hesitate to invest for the risk of their capital, financial institutions feels reluctant to finance. In fact, it resulted to giving negative impact on developmental activities.
It is observed that there is an enthusiastic association of the police with repression. The minute that the coercive apparatus is pushed into action, they not only become totally ruthless but also every brutal method with or without orders from the higher political levels, are used by them. The police have scant respect for the norms.

Today the state is at the crossroads. It is on the brinks of a social precipice. The problems which the State face is worse confounded since the civil services which were once politically ‘neutral’ has also developed a vested interest in the troubled waters. The civil services have become pliable and they acquiesce in the nefarious activities of the political leaders and take the plea of obeying the political leadership whatever their own opinion may be not only the local goons but also smugglers have made our security look comical. The rules and laws have become irrelevant in the contemporary situation when rowdy-sheeters and criminals have become legislatures and ministers.

Several schemes like PMRY, JRY, EAS etc are being implemented as central sponsored scheme and another scheme namely special Employment Scheme for the Educated Youth has been flooded by State Government to provide job opportunities for the educated unemployed youths. As the programme were found lacunae, it resulted to adverse effect. Besides, there are also incidences wherein the various underground outfits extorts and side tracts the amount (in percentage) meant for undertaking the various development tasks. This vicious circle of deteriorating law and order situation have eaten up the very vitals of state/district administration, leaving the State as a whole crippled and mutilated. Thus, It is found out that inspite of all herculean efforts from both the centre and state forces, the law and order problem seems to go from bad to worse day by day. There seemed to be a great mistrust between the people and the Armed Forces which adds more problem to the already problem-ridden state. Thus, the law and order problem poses a great threat to the proper functioning of the district administration of Manipur. Owing to this continuous existence of crime and violence neither development nor maximum utilization of national and local resources is possible.
One of the vital aspects regarding the revenue administration of the state as revealed from the above discussion is that before 1891 no systematic arrangement for assessment so also for exploration of its sources was adopted by Rajas. However, this has been observed that from time to time the Rajas consolidated state revenue from a number of sources like lallup duty, land revenue, forest revenue, fishery, import and export tax, etc. But this might be due to lack of mone-tization in the Economy that the revenue of Manipur was collected mainly in kind and labour, while revenue in cash was collected to a very limited extent. In this connection, it has also been mentioned that the nobles, the relatives of the Raja, and the Brahmins were exempted from paying many of the taxes in one way or the other. Therefore, the revenue of the state so collected was found to have been contributed mainly by the common people who were by and large poor. It appears that the Raja spent the income so derived in a very arbitrary manner primarily for his own satisfaction and security without giving much consideration for the overall development of the state. All the major works of the State like construction, defence etc, were done by the lallup service.

A series of changes in the revenue system was brought by the British when the state was under their control. The British officers introduced formally the system of budgeting for the state in 1891 for the first time, making another land mark in the history of Manipur. Since then budgeting had become a normal practice and this was further strengthened with the institution of the Manipur State Durbar in 1907 with an officer of the Indian Civil Service as the Vice-President (later who became the President.) The Raja was also made a paid nominal head of the state. Thus, in addition to the opening of a number of departments to deal with the assessment and the collection of revenue especially from land, forests and lakes, the British officers attempted to explore all possible sources to raise the state revenue by introducing a number of new taxes like the Hill House Tax, Foreigner’s Tax, Vehicle Tax etc., which were to be paid in cash. Besides, collection of revenue indirectly through leasing or selling out the right for exploiting a number of resources was also introduced as one of the new steps taken up by
the Britishers. In fact, reorganization of the collection of revenue and introduction of new taxes were made in such a manner that the tax system might cover almost all the persons for contributing to the state revenue. However, since the land tax, etc. contributed the major share of the state revenue, naturally poorer section of the population still had also to pay fine as they usually failed to pay the taxes in time. And although the practice of lallup was abolished officially in 1891, the native people still continued to pay it in a disguised form up to 1940 in the name of serving the Raja and the nobles.

It was revealed by any criterion while the state did not pledge to any strategic approach for the economic development of the state, the early system of financial pattern appears to have aimed at mainly in maintaining and protecting the royal family. And later on, this was after the occupation of the state by the British that their programmes and policies also appeared to have benefited the British imperialist administration in the state.

It is also observed that during the native rule, land was the major source of revenue. British rule innovated the revenue system on a scientific way. Since statehood there have been changes in the revenue system. Owing to trade expansion and development of both the national highways (NH 39,53), the revenue resource-base is being shifted from land to other sources. As the resource-base of the state is very weak, the expected target amount cannot be achieved. Therefore, the state has to depend on the centre heavily.

Every state/district desires to have a sound economy with sufficient income to bring over all development of the state. Planning is the means which can be employed to increase the revenue of the state / districts. Planning of one type or the other, is being practised in all countries of the modern world. It exists in a most comprehensive form in the third world countries where it is generally accepted as a means to promote development. The development policy formulated in the plans has undergone a change from its mechanical
approach to its present human approach. Today, it is directed towards satisfaction of basic human needs.

An attempt has been made to understand all aspects of the process of plan formulation, techniques of implementation, monitoring and evaluation and the salient co-ordinative mechanism of planning system at the district level. The precise formulation of the specific objectives varied from plan to plan, yet essential objectives of planning in India have been mainly three-growth, self-reliance and social justice from the 1st plan in 1951-1956 till the ongoing 10th plan, elimination of poverty has become one of the greatest challenges of India. Thus, it is observed that in every five-year plan, targets are made to eliminate poverty from this land. Government launched several developmental programmes to eliminate poverty. It was felt that the only way to ensure better and more effective planning is to decentralise the planning processes, district is the proper and appropriate unit for the purpose.

In the State of Manipur, District Planning Department came into existence in the early parts of 1979. It appears that at the state level, the planning is found to be highly bureaucratised. Views of the local experts and local bodies are hardly consulted. District planning includes the schemes collected from various departments. But these are not based on proper assessment of state resources. Consequently, district planning in the existing form has failed to smoothen the dent made on the entire planning system.

The underdeveloped nature of the district economy is reflected in various characteristics such as predominance of agriculture as 70% of the population are engaged in agriculture. And surprisingly enough, the people still heavily depend on monsoons. There is no trace of industrialization. Even the small-scale industrial units are not flourishing fully as they are handicapped by inadequate and obsolete infrastructural facilities. The state/districts depends on imports of essential commodities like salt, food items, construction materials etc. There is
lack of proper transport, storage, processing and marketing facilities. As for instance, even though there is abundance of forest resources, because of non-availability of infrastructural facilities like power, skilled labour, transport and communication, financial institutions etc., these resources have not so far been exploited.

The districts possess adequate resources which, if utilized properly may lead to rapid development in coming years. The economy has continued to be in a transitional state. The scarcity of capital, entrepreneurial skill and low infrastructural base are responsible for poor economy.

The financial resources of the region are limited and the funds available insufficient to initiate the process of economic development, Assistance from financial institutions has not flowed into the area in any significant manner. Above all, the investment made by the Central Government in public sector undertakings is also not satisfactory.

The major problems of the district economy are poverty, unemployment and inequalities in distribution of income and wealth. The two fold task before the district is to bring sound economic development to enable it to participate effectively in the development process occurring in the State and to search for the existing and potential growth centres in the said area.

There is an urgent need to develop infrastructural facilities specially in backward areas to provide essential services to the masses and to promote balanced development of the district economy.
Suggestions

These few points are the main findings of the study undertaken. From the findings of the study undertaken, the present structure is not efficiently functioning. Some measures are suggested in order to bring district administrative structure to work efficiently. It is expected that, if these suggestions are implemented things would improve to a large extent and district administration can function efficiently bringing all round development of the state hereafter.

At the first instance, it is suggested that the present district administrative system needs to be reformed to fulfil the dynamic requirements of the changing times. Jiribam sub-division has been placed under the administrative control of Imphal East district even though this sub-division is not in any way adjacent to the Imphal East district. The administrative authorities faced a number of problems in carrying out their functions. These inconveniences hamper the developmental works concerning the region. It is therefore suggested that for administrative convenience, Jiribam can be created as a separate individual district with some of the hill areas at its periphery. This way it can give double benefit to the state as it will not only solve the problem of administrative inconvenience but also it will help in promoting and strengthening the ethnic ties thereby creating a strong bond of emotional integrity. As well as all the people of the district will develop a feeling of oneness. So, also it will create peaceful atmosphere which will help to achieve development in the state i.e. its consequent return will be the all-round development of the state.

At present, a trend which is observed in the districts especially among the hill districts is that the districts are based on ethnic groups. Say for instance, Ukhrul district is predominantly inhabited by Nagas and Churachandpur by Kukis. This trend gives them a chance to form groups based on their ethnicity. This is not desirable as it gives room for creating communal feelings which consequently leads to communal clashes. Therefore, it is suggested
that the districts of the state need to be reorganized. A district should house a mixture of different communities. This is the need of the hour keeping in view of the socio-political scenario of our present society.

Today the state is facing multifarious problems because of the existing faulty administrative system. The existing system should create the ambience which are conducive to bring accountability, sincerity and transparency on the fore. No system can function without certain amount of accountability, discipline and transparency. If these principles are found existent in the administrative system, social transformation can be achieved within no time.

It is seen that there is over-centralisation of administrative power in the hands of a few. Decentralization of power structure is highly called for. As the saying goes centralization of power tends to get corrupt and corrupt power becomes absolutely despotic. There is also a need for proper co-operation and co-ordination along all the wings in the administrative machinery directly and indirectly involved for the execution of the works.

Thoubal district is a district of the valley of Manipur. But surprisingly enough, the Thoubal district area lies in between inner parliamentary constituency and outer parliamentary constituency. In actuality, the outer parlimentary constituency seat may be said to be reserved for the people inhabited in the five hill districts of Manipur. Thus, the people residing in seven Assembly constituencies within Thoubal district are under the outer parliamentary constituency. They are given the right to vote but deprived of the right to contest as a candidate. There has been lot of protest against this from the people of Thoubal district. It is high time the problem be solved amicably. The suggestible solution is either to divide Manipur into three parliamentary constituencies in the break-up of two parliamentary constituencies in the valley area and one parliamentary constituency for the five hill districts of Manipur, or else to merge these seven assembly constituencies of the outer parliamentary constituency to the inner
parliamentary constituency. It would be of great justice specially to those deprived sections of people inhabited in outer Manipur parliamentary constituency even though they settle in the Thoubal district.

There is inter and intra district disparities among the districts of Manipur. This glaring difference certainly has negative impact on the developmental process of the hill and valley districts. Most of the infrastructure in the state is unserviceable. Hence disparities among the districts should be done away with and it is possible only when all the districts are treated equally on the same footing. Special treatment should be given to the least developed districts. Tamenglong district is the least developed district in the state at present. And there exists as for instance the two valley districts namely, Thoubal and Bishenpur districts which are not having the necessary infrastructure in comparison with Imphal district. A number of administrative handicaps are being faced by these two districts in the co-ordination and execution of all developmental works compared to that of the Imphal districts. In the same manner, Churachandpur is the most developed district among the hill districts. In fact, it is the most developed town next to Imphal town. Among the hill districts Churachandpur district is the most educationally advanced maintaining standard of living on the pattern of western people. It is suggested that different measures would be needed for different districts to reduce the inter-district disparities taking into account the nature and backwardness and resource potentials of each district. This problem will have to be solved at an early date so that the equality of opportunities and sharing of facilities can be effected for the people with the help of proper administration for all practical purposes.

Some amount from the state development fund should be kept earmarked for the backward or less developed districts. There is also need to identify the prioritised district wise schemes and programmes to be taken up to ensure the accelerated growth of the district. A sense of competitiveness among the districts also should be created. Steps should be taken up to bring quality education in the state particularly in the hill districts. And to achieve all these aims,
it is suggested for a modernized district administration for effective implementation of the developmental programmes. The present planning system in Manipur needs to be reformed to fulfil the dynamic needs and requirements of the state.

Planning for development of districts/state is made through the concerted efforts for overall development. This can be achieved through increase-productivity in all the sectors of development followed by provisions of strong inbuilt infrastructure facilities and attainment of social justice.

At the same time governmental efforts for improvement of the economic status of the various state departments is essential since they are running into losses. A constant review of their working is required to be done so that propose monitoring could be done.

The different districts are endowed with different resources. e.g. Tamenglong district, is richly endowed with bamboo and Ukhrul district with variety of fruits. Based on the natural resources available, specific spatial programmes/schemes are to be taken up to develop the district. For this planning activities at district level need to be intensified for attainment of these objectives. For this purpose there is need to provide technology available in the state and abroad. The specific area-based technology which is suitable to the local conditions need to be adopted. This, in fact, should supplement in raising the economy of the district in particular and national economy in general.

Adequate planning machinery may have to be established at the various territorial levels. With required autonomy and adequate administrative and financial powers to prepare and implement the plans of development, proper rapport and communication need to be established between the planning and implementing agencies at a particular level and among the agencies at different territorial levels. It may be suggested here that the planners, administrators and the research institutions should work together as an integrated structure to
plan and implement the development programme and policies. The development plans at lower levels needs to be discussed in the public meetings before they are finalized.

There is also an urgent need to strengthen the planning machinery at the district level. The existing machinery lacks specialists and expert personnels. The representatives from various voluntary organisations and farmers’ societies may also be included.

In the villages under the administrative control of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, especially in the three valley districts, the functioning of these grassroot-level organisations are not up to the expected standard even though adequate provision has been made in the Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1975 for the welfare and upliftment of living and working conditions of the villagers under the jurisdictions of the PRI’s. The state government machinery is also not in favour of giving enough power for execution so that the responsibilities of a Pramukh, or of Up-Pramukh or of Pradhan and of members including women members in different capacities are properly discharged.

The responsibilities entrusted in grass-root level have been increased to a great extent under the various developmental schemes like JRY, PMRY and AES etc. giving 80% of the financial allocation for developmental works for such areas to be executed through PRI’s. The remaining 20% of the budgetary allocation has been set apart under the name and style of united fund to be utilized by the concerned block development officer in consultation with the district commissioner of the concerned district so far as valley districts are concerned. There is no proper justification as to the execution of development works by the elected bodies as well as governmental officials. It is found that the same amount incash by some Pradhans for their developmental works was not properly used for the purpose for which it had been sanctioned. It is therefore, suggested that adequate care be taken up by the beneficiaries, elected bodies and governmental agencies so that the amount earmarked for developmental works should be reached to the beneficiaries in tact.
It can also be suggested that Panchayats can function effectively when they are endowed with certain monitory powers. After the state attain statehood in 1972, there has been many programmes and policies for development. It is a common perception that there are significant changes in the society. But paradoxically, the face of the rural scene seems not to change much. Therefore, some prospective changes in the field of administration are necessary.

The state government should take up steps to strengthen the local level bodies. Since all the local bodies depend heavily on the state government for all their needs, adequate budgetary allocations should be made by the government so that the grass-root level democracy misused function effectively thereby ensuring sincere and worthy people’s participation. The overall development of the state is possible only when there is successful functioning of the local bodies with full public participation.

Experience shows that the various local bodies functioning are defective due to the existing game of power politics. It tarnishes the image of the local bodies. It is suggestible that instead of this independent candidacy in the local bodies there should be candidacy based on political parties as currently practiced in the state of West Bengal. It is found that by a simple majority a Chairman of Municipality or Adakshya of Zilla Parishad can be removed. So there is no stability in the governance of the local bodies due to such defective laws. The Anti-Defection Law which are enforced to Parliament and Assembly should also be extended to the local bodies to prevent the instability in the structure. For the smooth functioning of the local bodies Anti-Defection Law should be enforced. If not this, the other alternative is introduction of 2/3 majority instead of simple majority whenever a Chairman or an Adakshyal is to be removed. At the same time, the people should be vigilant.

If the local bodies work sincerely corruption of the bureaucrats can be checked. It can bring accountability, transparency etc. in the administrative system. It is only at the grass-root
level that these things can be acheived. But the present existing form of local bodies are seen to be just existing for names sake. The local bodies should work sincerely and effectively to bring overall development of the state. There is also need for improvement of infrastructure of the local level administration for its proper functioning. There is need for proper construction of buildings. Besides, the directorate does not have a building of its own and this causes a serious dislocation in the training programme. Therefore, an administrative building for the directorate is also proposed.

More power should be devolved to the Panchayats. District Collectors and other officers in the District Collectorate should be kept under the supervision of the Panchayat. The DC's work should be limited only to co-ordination. The Panchayats know the needs of the people as they are always in direct contact with the people.

Without improving the fiscal situation which is currently at the worse state, administration cannot be improved. Mention may be made in this regard that the present state of economy is characterised by unsustainable dimensions in which the State Government could not even regularly pay the salaries of the government employees. The adverse fiscal position continues to plague the State for the last many years. To improve the fiscal situation, resource mobilization should be taken up. And to bring resource mobilization again transparency, discipline and accountability is needed in the administration. A reordering of the centre-state relations particularly with reference to a backward State like Manipur is needed so as to bring about a better balance between responsibilities and fiscal resources will go some way towards empowering the states to take the steps to remove regional (inter and intra district) disparities, lack of infrastructure facilities for economic development, to create employment generating schemes of public expenditure and provide support for co-operative venture in credit, resource augmentation and environment protection etc. to create the right conducive atmosphere for carrying out the planning process successfully. Strong measures on the part of the government are needed to curtail revenue deficit. These should aim at improving tax and
non-tax revenue and also controlling non-plan revenue expenditure. To cure this deficit budgeting, district administration also has a role to play. Until and unless administration involves whole heartedly to cure this, welfare of the masses cannot be brought in the State. At the same time, fiscal monetary condition cannot be improved unless there is proper maintenance of law and order. If it goes well, administration of the State will be automatically revamped.

At present, the law and order situation is going from bad to worse. The impact of this bad law and order state on administration is huge as it is observed that it has almost become an essential part of the day-to-day routine life. It has almost become a part of the system as a whole. The law and order problem which is in the worse state, has an all round impact. Due to this, no good administration can be achieved. This bad law and order situation is not conducive for accelerated economic activities. The strategy for economy development now heavily depends on private sector initiative and investment. The problem of increasing unemployment in the state is to a large extent responsible for social tensions manifesting in the form of drug abuse, social unrest, secessionism and internecine clashes. This in turn causes further strain on the already limited resources of the state and it directly or indirectly hampers developmental activities. Due to bad law and order situation, the atmosphere is not perceived to be friendly with investors. Thus the state is being deprived of the opportunities of investment, employment, generation of income etc.

It is suggested that in order to bring the law and order state to normalcy, peoples participation is essential. Peoples’ participation in the decision-making process and also in implementation is highly required. At the same time, the government should take up all necessary measures to upgrade the standards of physical and social infrastructure in the State, help to restore a congenial environment for attracting entrepreneurs and investments and to expand the avenues for creating new employment opportunities both in public and private sector.
As for the police excesses, there should be a paradigm based on the understanding that ‘empowerment to serve’ should prevail over ‘licence to kill’ and service should predominate power. And it is also a well known fact that as the people started growing aggressive and assertive, the government took no time to press their coercive apparatus into action. Therefore, it is suggested that instead of using coercive action, the government should resort to amiable means to tackle restlessness. The administrative class should exert itself to generate alternative which is one of their legislative functions.

Out of the total area of the state 9/10 of land (hills) are not utilized properly as the primitive method of land-holding is still in practice in the hills. The lands are still under old practices like Jhum Cultivation etc. under the supervision of Khullakpas or village Chiefs. A reform in land holding in the hills are highly required. But the reform should be done with full involvement or assent of the people. Only when the land reforms are effectively acheived, all the developmental plans can be acheived effectively. The state government should arrive at a common consensus with the hill people to introduce the land reforms in the hills. When the government has authority over the lands in the hills, developmental schemes can be brought successfully.

Finally, the present existing society of the state should give full scope to each individual to develop his full potentialities so that he can work for his own development and the development of the well-being of the whole society. This is an urgent task facing the Manipur society. And this cannot be left to circumstances. It must be deliberately tackled. District administration, though introduced a long time ago, is still in the evolutionary stage. It needs to be strengthened on scientific lines. It may be suggested here that if district administration is reshaped on the lines suggested here, it would enable to fulfill the demands and needs of the people of this state.