CHAPTER – III

3. **SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE OF ASSAM AND KAMRUP DISTRICT:**

3.1 **General Background of Assam¹:**

The word ‘Assam’ is derived from the Sanskrit word Asoma meaning ‘peerless’ or ‘unequalled’. The land whose bewitching picture is conjured by the home ‘Assam’ is in fact peerless, judged by her exquisite natural beauty, cultural richness and human wealth.

Assam was known in the epic age as Pragjyotisha or the place of eastern astronomy. In the classical Sanskrit literature, Pragjyotisha is also called Kamrupa. A graphic account of the geography of Pragjyotisha or Kamrupa is to be found in the Kalika Purana (10th century) and the Jogini Tantra (16th century), both of which dwell upon the religio-geographical history of medieval Assam.

The modern name of the province, Assam is of recent origin. It is connected with the Ahoms who entered the Brahmaputra valley in the beginning of the 13th century. They say that this was the term applied to them by the native tribes at the time of their invasion of the valley, and was an index of the admiration with which the latter regarded the Ahom conqueror that conciliated them.
Some scholars have stated that the word ‘Assam’ denotes the unparallel beauty of the state. Lord Baden Powell in his book ‘Indian Village Community’ states that the Bodo community named this ancient land ‘Sa-Sum’, which with the passage of time to time got translated into the modern world ‘Assam’.

3.2 Geography:

Assam is situated in the northeastern corner of India in the Himalayan foothills. It is known as the land of blue hills and red rivers. The state of Assam is one of the most beautiful and attractive regions of India. It is located in 88.3°E to 96.0°E longitudes and 24.5°N to 28.0°N latitudes. The state is bounded in the east by Arunachal Pradesh, in the West-by-West Bengal, Meghalaya and Bangladesh, in the North by Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan, and in the South by Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura. The total geographical area of the state is 78,438 sq. km., which accounts for about 2.4 percent of country’s total land area. The forest area constituted about 34.14 percent of the total geographical area of Assam.

Assam is the oldest state in the northeastern region. The state has two distinct natural regions viz. the Brahmaputra valley and the Barak valley. The Brahmaputra valley comprises eighteen districts of plain areas and two districts of hill areas with a total area of 71,516 sq. km. and the
Barak valley comprising three districts with plain areas of 6,922 sq. km. Moreover, in view of the administrative and revenue purposes the 23 districts of the state are divided into 48 sub-divisions and 149 Revenue Circles.

Guwahati is the capital city of Assam. The major towns in the state are Guwahati, Dhubri, Barpeta, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Jorhat, Nagaon, Sibsagar, Silchar and Tezpur. The major crops of the state are Rice, Maize, Wheat, Jute, Cotton, Sugarcane, Areca nut and Coconut. The major plantations are Tea, Rubber and Coffee. Major fruits are Banana, Pineapple, Orange and vegetables are Potato, Sweet Potato, Papaya, Cabbage, Onion and Tapiocas. Major minerals are coal, limestone, petroleum, Granite, Silimanite.

3.3 Natural Resources:

Assam is blessed with vast natural resources. The major natural resources in Assam are mineral resources, forest resources, water resources and power resources.

3.3.1 Mineral resources:

Minerals are one of the most important things for the industrial development of a region as it provides raw materials to heavy industries, engineering, chemical and other industries. The main mineral resources in Assam are coal, crude oil, natural gas and limestone. The major coalfields
in the state are situated at Makum, Margharita, Nazira, Lankadaman, Jaipur, Ledo and Namdum etc. Total coal production in the state during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are 5,99,800 thousand tonnes, 5,29,000 thousand tonnes and 5,12,973 thousand tonnes respectively. The oil deposits are found in Naharkatia, Moran, Hugrijan, Rudrasagar, Galeky, Lakwa, Nazira and Teok etc. Assam produced about Petroleum (Crude) during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are 233,39,388 thousand tonnes, 289,64,000 thousand tonnes and 284,45,990 thousand tonnes respectively.

The oil refineries are situated at Digboi, Guwahati, Bongaigaon and Numaligarh. Assam has also good amount of natural gas and it is found in Naharkatia and Moran area. The natural gas (Utilised) is 30,83,715 Mem, 36,32,400 Mem and 33,30,000 Mem in 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively. Limestone is also found in Assam and it is used as raw material for cement. Limestone mines are available at Garampani and Koilajan in the district of Karbianglong and North Cachar hills. Total production in 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are 93,991 thousand tonnes, 1,04,826 thousand tonnes and 1,06,201 thousand tonnes respectively. Other minor minerals such as fire clay, kaolin, iron ore, fullers earth, feldspar are found in the state. Thus, Assam
is having vast mineral resources that should be used for the industrialisation of the state.

**3.3.2 Forest Resources:**

Assam has a large forest area. The total area under forests in Assam in March 2001 was 26,781.99 sq. km. It constitutes about 34.14 per cent of the total geographical area of Assam. The main forest products of the state are industrial wood, fuel wood, bamboo, stone, thatch, cane, sand etc. The importance of forestry lies not only with its productivity but also with its capacity to prevent soil erosion and maintenance of ecological balance. Therefore, the State Government has imposed ban on the cutting of trees. Moreover, various forestry development programmes are undertaken by the State Government such as afforestation and social forestry, wildlife management, improvement of infrastructural facilities, etc. Assam has beautiful wildlife comprised of animals, reptiles, birds and fishes etc.

Assam is famous for its one horned Rhino, which is found in maximum numbers in Kaziranga National Park, and Tiger is found in Manas National Park. Assam has five National Parks and eleven wildlife and Bird Sanctuaries. The National Parks are Kaziranga, Manas, Namet, Dibru-Saikhowa and Orang and the eleven wildlife and bird sanctuaries are Gibbon, Garampani, Laokhowa, Burachapri, Chakravila, Bornadi,
Sonai-Rupai, Pobitora wildlife sanctuaries, Dipar beels, Panidihing and Bordoibum bird sanctuaries. The highly endangered species of the world found in Assam are Hollock, Gibbon, the stump tailed Macaque, the Pigmy hog, the clouded Leopard, the Golden cat, the White winged wood, Duck, etc.

Assam boasts of a variety of other exotic wildlife mammals as well as the multi hued mingled species like Swamp Deer, Sambar, Hog Deer, Sloth Bear, Hog Badger, Indian Bison, Water Buffalo, Jackal Goose, Hornbills, Ibis, Cormorants, Egret, Heron, Fishing Eagle and Pelican. Assam is one of the best destinations where tourist can encounter a great variety of wildlife.

Finally, forests in Assam provide raw materials for various industries like plywood industry, match industry, paper and paper pulp industry, etc. Besides, forest products like cane and reeds provide excellent opportunity for the growth of small-scale industry producing cane furniture etc. Mulberry trees available in the forest of Assam has enabled in rearing and developing Muga and Silk industry in the state. The other forest-based industries in Assam are two timber treating plant (one at Makum and other at Naharkatia), one hand board factory at Panikhaiti, 18 Bidi factories and 6 Ivory industries. Forests in Assam also
provide sand and stone chips for construction purposes that are available in plenty in the side of forest streams and rivers.

3.3.3 Water Resources:

Water resources are one of the important resources of Assam as it is predominantly an agricultural state. Moreover, water is essential for sustenance of human, animal and planet life on earth.

The availability of water is both from over ground (surface run water) and underground sources. Rainwater and river water are the two major sources of surface run water (overgrow). The underground sources of water are also high and it can play a useful role in the agriculture development of the region. Water resources in Assam is utilised for irrigation, hydroelectric power generation and development of waterways. In Assam, most of the irrigation projects are being operated either by lift irrigation or by tube well irrigation system. Canal irrigation system is mostly confined to three districts of Assam i.e. Kamrup, Nagaon and Darrang district. The irrigation programme being carried on in Assam consists of (a) major and medium irrigation programme and (b) minor irrigation programme. Assam has huge hydroelectric power potential and it constitutes about 28 per cent of the total hydropower potential of the country. But in spite of this availability it is not properly utilised because most of the reservoirs are situated in Arunachal Pradesh,
Meghalaya and Nagaland border. For proper utilisation of the reservoirs joint efforts of the neighbouring states are necessary.

Presently, in Assam various hydel power projects are lower Barapani Hydel Project (250 MW), Karbi Longpi Hydro-Electric Project (250 MW) and Kopili hydel project (250 MW). Some of these projects are completed and others are still incomplete.

Waterways are the cheapest mode of transport as it provides readymade routes and it does not require any maintenance expenditure. Through waterways, a huge volume of cargo can be easily transported over long distances. There are unique opportunities for developing inland water transport in Assam because there are two lifeline rivers i.e. the Brahmaputra and the Barak-Kushiara and their tributaries in the south. Besides, country boats carry a good amount of cargo and passengers through different rivers of the state. Assam has total navigable waterways to the extent of 4,065.6 km out of which only 2,193.6 km. are navigable throughout the year and the rest 1,872 km are navigable only during the monsoons. Thus, water resources of Assam are also being utilised for navigation purposes to a great extent.

3.3.4 Power Resources:

Power is an essential pre-requisite for industrial development. It is the basic infrastructural requirements for the growth of industries as well
as overall economy of the state. Although, Assam possesses immense potential of power ranging from hydel to natural gas including oil and coal reserves, the progress of this sector in the state has not taken place on a scale commensurate with the possibilities. As a result, there exists a big gap between availability and demand for power in the state. Assam accounts for only a small fraction i.e. 0.16 per cent of the total generation of electricity in the country during 2000-2001. The installed capacity (MW) of power in the state has remained the same at 574.4 MW since 1997-98 till date and the total unit generated (Mkwh) was 840.4 Mkwh during 2001-2002. Power supply in Assam is provided (both hydel and thermal) by Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station, Namrup Thermal Power Station, Lakwa Thermal Power Station, Mobile Gas Turbine Units (Kathalguri), Bordikharu Micro Hydel Projects, Mobile Gas Turbine (Geleky). Moreover, the Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB) also supply power in the state. The power consumption in the state during 2001-2002 was 1682.98 MU. The number of consumers of power in the state during March 2002 was 9,40,713.

3.3.5 Livestock Resources:

Livestock is a kind of reproducible biological resources. Livestock population includes cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goat, pig, duck, hen, pigeon, honey bee, etc. In Assam, a good number of rural people accepted the
rearing of livestock as a secondary occupation side by side with their principal occupation. Moreover, a limited number of population in Assam, particularly dwellers in hilly slopes are practicing livestock farming as a whole time occupation.

As per 1997 livestock census, there were 8,030 thousand cattle, 728 thousand buffaloes, 2,677 thousand goats, 1,082 thousand pigs, 89 thousand sheep, 12 thousand horses and ponies. Thus, the total number of livestock population according to 1997 livestock census was 13,467 thousand.

The poultry population in the state according to 1997 was 179.79 lakh. There were 129.31 lakh fowls and 49.97 lakh ducks. The livestock population of Assam mainly belongs to the indigenous non-descript type for which the average productivity of livestock in Assam is lower than those of many other states of India. The production of milk in 2000-2001 was 737 million liters, egg 505 million numbers and meat is 17.66 thousand tonnes.

The importance of livestock in an agrarian economy like Assam cannot be denied and therefore needs special attention for its development. Various livestock developmental schemes like Breeding, Feeding, Disease control and Diary development have been undertaken in the state under the successive five-year plan programmes. Another
important objective of the state’s livestock development programmes is to provide self-employment opportunities through adoption of diary, poultry and pigery schemes.

As far as development effort in this sector is concerned various livestock development programmes are continued to be implemented in the state which include establishment of Intensive Cattle Development Project (ICDP), Frozen Semen Bank, Stockman Centres, Key Village Centres, Livestock Farms, Poultry and Duck Farms, Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries etc. As per information available during 1999-2000, there were 11 (Eleven) numbers of Intensive Cattle Development Centres, 26 (Twenty Six) numbers of Regional Artificial Insemination Centre (RAI), 7 (Seven) numbers of Frozen Semen Bank, 3(three) numbers of Frozen Semen Storage Depot, 11 (Eleven) numbers of liquid Nitrogen Plant, 10 (Ten) numbers of Key Village Centres and 1 (One) number of coordinated Cattle Breeding Project. In addition to the above, as per livestock census, 1997, there were 7 (Seven) numbers of Livestock Farms, 18 (Eighteen) numbers of Poultry and Duck Farms, 6 (Six) numbers of Pig Farm Units, one Sheep and Goat Farm, one Bull-rearing Farm, one Buffalo Breeding Farm and 4(Four) numbers Poultry and Duck Breeding Farms in the State. Apart from these, there were 4 (Four) number of Fodder Demonstration Farm during the year under reference.
Moreover, a wide network of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries exists in the state for providing animal health care. The numbers of such institution are 29 Hospitals, 298 Dispensaries, 25 Mobile Dispensaries and 135 Block Dispensaries. In addition to these, keeping in view that rural economy of Assam has vast potential to generate income and employment to rural population through growth in livestock sector, the Development of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary has established training institutions to provide training facility to the unemployed youth of the state. The numbers of training institution in the state are 4 (Four) at present.

3.3.6 Fishery Resources:

Assam is endowed with huge fishery potential. Assam possesses immense fishery resources in the form of rivers, beds, swamps, ponds, tanks, forest, fisheries and paddy fields. The twin river systems of Brahmaputra valley and Barak valley bring enough fresh water to almost all over the state through innumerable tributaries. The ecological condition of the state is also quite favourable for pisciculture along with its sub-tropical humidity and coolness of climate.

About 90 percent of the people of state consume fish. Fishery is considered as one of the important sectors for the development of rural economy of the state. Two major rivers of India viz. the Brahmaputra and
the Barak flows through the state. The big Brahmaputra flows from East to West and runs through a distance of 730 km having 42 tributaries of which 27 are in the north and 15 on the south bank. In its upper reaches, for a length of about 530 km till Guwahati, the gradient is steep and the strong surface and underwater current render commercial fishing impossible with the indigenous methods of fishing. The remaining 230 km. stretch from Guwahati to Dhubri is exploited commercially for fishing.

The other major river Barak flows from north to south in the southern region of the state, for a total length of 400 km. It has 13 tributaries, 7 of which are in the north bank and the 6 of them are in the south bank. Commercial fishing is practised across the entire river. The state has two newly constructed reservoirs in North Cachar Hills District constructed by Kapilee Hydro Electric Project. The process of developing these reservoirs into fisheries shall continue in the coming years. The annual requirement of fish in the state according to 2000 is 2.68 lakh tonnes. The production of fish during the year 1999-2000 was 1.68 lakh metric tonnes. But still there is a huge deficit and in order to meet the deficit the private traders import fish from Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal to meet the requirements of the state. Besides, as a result of
Government of India’s export-import business policy, a large amount of fish is also imported from the neighbouring country, Bangladesh.

In order to achieve self-sufficiency in fish production the Department of Fisheries, Assam has taken up numbers of fishery development schemes. The Government has started Fish Seed Farming, which has become very popular resulting in increase of fish seed production in the state to a comfortable position. Moreover, Fish Farmer’s development Agency (FFDA) scheme has also been started. The scheme is now functioning in all the 23 districts of the state. Further, the Government launched a new programme with the assistance of the World Bank entitled “Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agriculture Service Project (ARIASP)”. 

Apart from these, in order to harness the fishery potential of the state, the Fishery Department has undertaken various steps through development of Derelict Water Bodies, Assam Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd., Assam College of Fishery, Training Programmes through Regional Fisheries Training Institutes (RFTI) at Amrenga in the Kamrup District, which is 35 km from Guwahati.

3.4 General Economic Scenario of Assam:

The economic scenario in Assam is not so good due to the insurgency problems and the financial constraints. Moreover, the regular
occurrence of flood creates much havoc and put strain on the already empty coffers of the state.

As per the 2001-2002 census (quick estimates) the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) showed a growth of 3.21 per cent at constant (1993-94) prices and at current prices its growth is 5.79 per cent. The per capita income grew at the rate of 2.08 per cent at constant prices and at current prices it showed a growth of 4.62 per cent in 2001-02. The share of the agriculture sector in NSDP of Assam at constant (1993-94) prices was 31.84 % and at current prices it is 32.56 % in 2001-2002. The total food grains production in agriculture during 2001-2002 was 40.28 lakh tones. The Index of Agricultural Production (base triennium ending 1981-82=100) for the state (has decreased to 164) in 2001-2002.


The production of power sector is not up to its true potential. The installed capacity of power in the state has remained same in 2001-2002, i.e. at 574.40MW. On the contrary, the generation of power declined to 840.4 Mkwh in 2001-2002. Assam continued to have a short fall in power
and it has to meet its increasing requirements by purchasing power from neighbouring states.

The total numbers of reporting Scheduled Commercial Bank Offices (including Regional Rural Banks) in the state at the end of March 2002 was 1232. The volume of deposits and credit of these banks stood at Rs.11551.63 crore and Rs.3627.07 crore respectively at the end of the aforesaid period. The credit-deposit ratio in the state continued to be very unsatisfactory as compared to the national level. As against the all India credit deposit ratio of 62.3 percent at the end of March 2002, the same for Assam stands at 31.4 percent only.

The average consumer price index for working class population (base 1982=100) showed a rise to 415 during 2001. Similarly, the average wholesale price index for Agricultural Commodities (base 1993-94=100) also increased to 163 in 2001-2002. The retail prices of other essential commodities also show an increasing trend.

The employment position in the organised sector (both public and private) was 11.31 lakh-employed people at the end of December 2001. But the growing unemployment problem is a matter of concern and the number of job seekers as per employment exchange data was 15.25 lakh at the end of December 2001.
3.5 **Indicators of Growth and Development of Assam:**

The main indicators of growth and development of Assam are:

### 3.5.1 Population:

The area of Assam according to 2001 census is 78,438 sq. km, which accounts for about 2.4 percent of the country’s total geographical area. Population of the state is 266 lakh that is 2.59 percent of the total population of India. The density in the state is 340 person per sq. km according to 2001 census. The sex-ratio i.e. female per thousand male shows 932 as compared to 933 of all India. The percentage of urban population to the total population is 12.72 percent and the percentage of rural population to total population is 87.28 per cent. The percentage of Scheduled Caste population to the total population in the state is 7.4 percent according to 1991 census and the percentage of Scheduled Tribe population is 12.82 percent of the total population. The decadal growth ratio of population during 1991-2001 is 18.85 percent. The average annual growth rate during the same period is 1.7 percent. The birth rate in the state according to 2000 is 26.9 per thousand and the death rate is 9.6 per thousand. The infant mortality rate works out to be 76 per thousand. The total literacy rate in Assam according to 2001 census is 64.28 percent.
3.5.2 State Income:

In 2001-02 the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) of Assam in real terms i.e. at 1993-94 (constant prices) was Rs.15966.98 crore and at current prices it is Rs.29197.88 crore. The per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at current and constant prices during the same year was Rs.10951 and Rs.5989 respectively. The plan outlay (approved) during 2001-02 was Rs.1710.00 crore.

3.5.3 Agriculture:

Index of Agricultural Production (base triennium ending 1981-82=100) for the state in 2001-02 is 164. The total production of food grain crops in the state is 40.28 lakh tonnes in 2001-02. Consumption of fertilizers during 2001-02 was 152.946 thousand tonnes. The total cropped area of the state is 39 lakh hectares. The yield of rice during 2000-01 was 1568kg per hectare. During 2000-01 the productions of fish, milk, meat and egg were 1,61,450 tonnes, 737 million litre, 27.06 thousand tonnes and 505 million number respectively. The net area sown during 1998-99 was 27,01,053 hectare.

3.5.4 Industry:

The index of industrial production during 2001-02 was 126.25 (Base 1993-94=100). The production of tea was 451 million kgs in 2000, which constitute a major share of 53 percent of the total tea production in
India (84 million kg.). The coal and crude oil during 2001 was 701 thousand tonnes and 5145 thousand tonnes respectively. The total number of registered factories during 2000 was 2406.

3.5.5 Power:

The total electricity generated during 2001-02 was 840.4 Mkwh. The consumption of electricity in the same period was 1682.98 Mkwh. The number of villages electrified during 1997-98 was 19031, which is about 77 percent villages electrified in the state.

3.5.6 Banks:

All scheduled commercial bank (including Regional Rural Banks) according to 2002 (March) was 1232. The volume of deposits and credit of these banks stood at Rs.11551.63 crore and Rs.3627.07 crore respectively during 2002. The credit deposit ratio in the state shows 31.4 per cent.

3.5.7 Posts and Communications:

The total number of Post offices was 3911 at the end of the year 1999-2000 comprising 3627 in rural areas and 284 in urban areas.

The total Road length was 33,343 km. in 1998-99 and the total Railway length was 2516.25 km. in 2001-02 of which Board gauge was 1185.78 km. and Meter Gauge 1330.47 km.
3.5.8 Enrolment in Schools:

The job seekers in Assam as per live register were 15.25 lakh at the end of December 2001. The total employment in the organised sector was 11.31 lakh (December 2001). The employment in public and private sector were 5,25,938 lakh and 6,05,013 lakh respectively. The women employed in the state were 362 numbers.

3.5.9 Others:

The population below the poverty line (as per Planning Commission estimates) in 1993-94 was 40.9 percent. According to the 4th Economic Census, the number of enterprises in 1998 was 18,000 (agricultural) and 5,83,000 (All Enterprises). The number of all establishments to the same economic census 1998 and agricultural establishment was 5,000.

Consumer Price Index of Industrial worker (Base 1982=100) was 37.4 percent. The population covered per Hospital was 1,59,759 (1997) numbers and Bed per lakh population was 51 numbers (1996). The registered Medical Practitioner in the state during 1995-96 was 13,000. Registered Medical Practitioners per thousand population during the same period were 5 in numbers.
3.6 **Infrastructure for Industrial Development:**

The government has set up various infrastructural facilities for the industrial development in the state viz. Industrial Estates, Industrial Area, Growth Centre etc. Some national level institutions or organisations have also been developed for the same purpose.

The various industrial estates, industrial areas and growth centres are as follows:

### 3.6.1 **Industrial Estates:**

There are altogether nineteen Industrial Estates in Assam. They are playing an important role in the industrial development of the region. They are as follows:

1. Industrial Estate, Bamunimaidam,
2. Industrial Estate, Dhekiajuli,
3. Industrial Estate, Tinsukia,
4. Industrial Estate, Badarpur,
5. Industrial Estate, Nalbari,
6. Industrial Estate, Mangaldoi,
7. Industrial Estate, Sibsagar,
8. Industrial Estate, Nagaon,
9. Industrial Estate, Jorhat,
10. Industrial Estate, New Bongaigaon,

11. Industrial Estate, Bokajan,

12. Industrial Estate, Bihpuria,

13. Industrial Estate, Lohowal,

14. Industrial Estate, Kalapahar,

15. Industrial Estate, Demow,

16. Industrial Estate, Moran,

17. Industrial Estate, Umrangshu,

18. Industrial Estate, Haflong,


Mini Industrial Estate also exists at Hojai, Dhing, Morigaon, Sibsagar, Moran, Doomdooma, Bokakhat, Biswanath Chariali and Howly, under the Administrative Control of Assam Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited, Assam.

3.6.2 **Industrial Areas of Assam:**

There are 20 numbers of Industrial Areas in Assam. They are the following:

1. Industrial Complex, Bonda.

2. Industrial Area, Bamunimaidam,

3. Industrial Area, Badarpurghat,
4. Danguapara Industrial Area,
5. Industrial Area, Changsari,
6. Industrial Area, Numali Jalah,
7. Chaygaon Electronic Area,
8. Industrial Area, Dekargaon,
9. Industrial Area, Golaghat,
10. Industrial Area, Dhaligaon,
11. Industrial Area, Gotlong,
12. Industrial Area, Rani,
13. Industrial Area, Bheating,
14. Industrial Area, Kalapahar,
15. Industrial Area, Digboi,
16. Industrial Area, Moran,
17. Industrial Area, Amingaon,
18. Industrial Area, Silchar,
19. Industrial Area, Dibrugarh,
20. Industrial Area, Dolobari.

3.6.3 Growth Centres In Assam:

There are 11 growth centres in Assam. They are listed below:

1. Barpeta Growth Centre,
2. Goalpara Growth Centre,
3. Kakopathar Growth Centre,
4. Duliajan Growth Centre,
5. Sariharjan Growth Centre,
6. Lilabari Growth Centre,
7. Maibong Growth Centre,
8. Manja Growth Centre,
9. Bokulia Growth Centre,
10. Balipara Growth Centre,
11. Matia Growth Centre.

Apart from these, there is one Export Promotion Industrial Park at Amingaon, Guwahati covering around 300 bighas of land and one Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre at Dolgaon in Darrang district covering around 135 bighas of land.

The Government has set up the following organisations/institutions for industrial development. They are as follows:

3.6.4 State Level Organisations / Institutions:

1. Directorate of Industries and Commerce (DICC):

The Directorate of Industries and Commerce was established in Guwahati in 1972. The main functions of the Directorate are to grant loan, subsidy and operate different schemes. It is also responsible for both
short term and long term plan for the development of industries and commerce in the state.

2. **Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC):**

   AIDC was set up in 1965 at Guwahati. The main aim of the Corporation is to identify and promote large and medium scale industries in the state. It has financed more than 70 projects, ranging from pharmaceuticals units to star category hotels through its refinance scheme up to 2000.

3. **Assam Small Industries Development Corporation (ASIDC):**

   Established in 1962, ASIDC (Assam Small Industries Development Corporation) mainly promote and develop small industries in the state. The corporation operates a number of schemes for the development of small-scale industries in the state.

4. **Assam Electronic Development Corporation (AEDC):**

   In 1984, the Assam Electronic Development Corporation was set up with its head office at Bamunimaidam, Guwahati. The primary objectives of the corporation are to promote and develop electronics based industries in Assam.

5. **Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board (AKVIB):**

   The AKIVB was constituted in 1953 under the Assam Khadi and Village Industries Act. The main aim of the Board is to promote and
develop khadi and village industries in the state. The Board has its head office in Chandmari, Guwahati.

6. **Assam Government Marketing Corporation (AGMC):**

   The main function of the AGMC is marketing of handloom and handicrafts products of the state. It has a number of emporia both inside and outside the state. AGMC works through its head office in Guwahati.

7. **Assam Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (AIIDC) Ltd.:**

   The major function of the Corporation is infrastructure development works for setting up industries in the state.

   Moreover, there are also a number of other organisations / institutions promoting industries and business.

3.6.5 **Regional Level Institution:**

1. **North Eastern Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation (NEHHDC):**

   The Government of India established the NEHHDC (North Eastern Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation) in 1977. The main aim was to promote and develop Handloom and Handicrafts in the northeastern region. The corporation provides technical, financial and other support to local artisans and to promote sales through its own sales emporia.
2. **North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMC):**

The NERAMC was set up in 1980 by the Government of India in order to provide marketing support for the horticultural produce and horticultural based industry etc.

3. **North Eastern Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organisation (NEITCO):**

The NEITCO was established in 1973. The main aim of the organisation is to provide consultancy, training and other services to small and medium scale industries. The principal promoters of NEITCO are IDBI and other development institutions and banks.

3.6.6 **National Level Organisations:**

1. **Small Industries Services Institute (SISI):**

The SISI was set up in Guwahati in the year 1956. The major functions of the institute are as follows:

- It provides common facility centre.

- It conducts EDP (Entrepreneurship Development Programme) and other management programmes.

- It prepares techno-economic reports etc.
2. *National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC):*

The NSIC usually helps the small entrepreneurs through the following activities:

- By supplying machineries on hire purchase basis.
- Distributes certain raw materials.
- Offers marketing support for SSI products through Central Government Stores Purchase Programme.

3. *Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE):*

The IIE was set up in 1993. The main function of IIE is to organise training programmes for prospective and existing entrepreneurs, personnel from support organisations, educated sons and daughters of artisans and entrepreneurs and also teachers and students from schools, colleges and universities. Moreover, the institute undertakes research and consultancy activities in the fields of small industry and entrepreneurship.

4. *Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC):*

In 1956, the KVIC was established under the KVIC Act in order to create employment opportunities in rural areas through the development of Khadi and Village Industries. Both the state and Regional Offices of the Commission are situated at Guwahati.
5. **Regional Directorate: Development Commissioner (Handicrafts):**

The main function of the Regional Directorate: Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) is to oversee the development of handicrafts in the region.

6. **Weavers Service Centre:**

A Weavers Service Centre was set up in Guwahati under the all India Handloom Board in order to help the handloom weavers for developing new techniques, new designs etc.

7. **Indian Institute of Handloom Technology:**

The Institute was established in Guwahati. The main function of the institute is to impart regular and professional courses for the development of handloom products. Moreover, it is also engaged in research activities for the development of handloom in the region.

8. **National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) (Regional Centre):**

In 1983, the regional centre of NIRD was set up in Guwahati. It mainly organises training programmes, conducts research studies etc. for the development of rural masses of the region. Besides, the state Government along with NIRD has also established another institute called State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD). The main function of
this institute is to conduct training programmes for Government officials, Mahila Mandals, NGOs, Entrepreneurs etc.

9. **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA):**

The NER branch office APEDA came into being in Guwahati in 1997 in order to help and develop agricultural commodities and processed foods and to promote their exports. It operates a number of supportive schemes on export promotion, market development, manpower development etc.

10. **Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS):**

The BIS Guwahati looks after the consumers’ interests through its two major activities viz. standard formulation and certification marketing.

11. **Directorate of Marketing and Inspection:**

The Deputy Agricultural Marketing Adviser, Guwahati under the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection is implementing the grading and marketing of certain agricultural and allied products for quality certification under AGMARK.

12. **Central Institute of Plastic Engineering Technology (CIPET):**

In 1999, the CIPET Extension Centre was set up in Guwahati with the assistance of Government of India and Government of Assam in order
to develop plastic industries in the state of Assam. CIEPT is presently offering both Diploma and short-term courses for the development of plastic engineering and technology.

13. **National Productivity Council (NPC):**

The Regional Directorate office of the NPC was established in 1975 at Guwahati. It provides training, undertakes research and consultancy in the area of productivity in industry, agriculture, service, infrastructure and other sectors of economy.

14. **National Horticulture Board (NHB):**

The North Eastern Regional office of the National Horticulture Board is situated at Guwahati. It is mainly engaged in promoting horticulture industry in the region. Moreover, it has taken up some development programmes for the integrated development of horticulture.

3.7 **Inter-district analysis showing relative position of Kamrup District:**

The inter district analysis which shows the relative position of Kamrup district are as under:

The Kamrup district of the State has the maximum concentration of small-scale industries followed by Dibrugarh, Nagaon, Sibsagar, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur etc.
There is a great spatial variation in the concentration of small-scale industries in Assam. Out of 23 districts of Assam, Kamrup and Dibrugarh have 39.67 percent share of the registered small-scale industries. On the contrary, twenty-one districts have 60.33 percent shares. Kamrup is the only district, which has more than 10,000 units, i.e. 12,260 units. Dibrugarh has 4,354 units and it is at second place. The remaining twenty-one districts have less than 4,000 units. The lowest numbers of units less than 500 are occupied by North Cachar Hills, Golaghat, Morigaon and Karbianglong, which has 499, 471, 289, 267 units respectively. The district-wise numbers of small-scale registered units up to 2001 are shown in the table No.2.

3.8 A Brief History of Kamrup District:

Kamrup was known as Pragjyotishpur before Ahom period. But in the ancient Sanskrit literature, both the name Kamrup and Pragjyotishpur were used for ancient Assam. However, in ‘Kalika Purna’ and ‘Jogini Tantra’ Kamrup alone appears as the name for this country.

The mythologies of ancient Assam tell a beautiful story as to Prajyotishpur became known as Kamrup. The word “Kamrup” means the land where “Kama” (love) regained his “Rupa” (form).
### Table 2
Number of Registered Small Scale Industries in Assam - 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total Units</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Dhubri</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Kokrajhar</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>1.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bongaigaon</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Goalpara</td>
<td>1360</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Barpeta</td>
<td>1242</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Nalbari</td>
<td>1525</td>
<td>3.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Kamrup</td>
<td>12260</td>
<td>29.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Darrang</td>
<td>1391</td>
<td>3.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Sonitpur</td>
<td>2270</td>
<td>5.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Lakhimpur</td>
<td>2096</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Dhemaji</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Nagaon</td>
<td>2838</td>
<td>6.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Morigaon</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Dibrugarh</td>
<td>4354</td>
<td>10.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Tinsukia</td>
<td>1257</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Sibsagar</td>
<td>2577</td>
<td>6.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Jorhat</td>
<td>1515</td>
<td>3.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Golaghat</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Cachar</td>
<td>1715</td>
<td>4.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Hailakandi</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Karimganj</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>1.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Karbi-Anglong</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>N. C. Hills</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>41,875</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Directorate of Industries, Assam.
The story of the mythologies of Assam goes that there was a very powerful King, Daksha by name, in ancient times. He gave his daughter, bait, in marriage to god Shiva. The king Daksha held once a great sacrifice in which he invited all gods except his son-in-law, god Shiva. Sati becomes very annoyed at the discourtesy shown to her husband by her own father. She died of vexation in the sacrificial field, which she had come to attend with the permission from her husband, Shiva. Overcome with the grief at the death of Sati, Shiva began a grim penance and wandered about the world carrying her dead body on his head. Shiva’s dance of death and penance alarmed all the gods because it threatened to destroy the world. In order to stop the frightful wanderings of Shiva, the supreme god Vishnu, by taking his great weapon, a discuss, cut the dead body of Sati into fifty-one pieces. It falls on the earth in fifty-one different places and wherever they fall, the ground was held to be sacred. One of the important organs of Sati fell on Nilachal hill near Guwahati and the place was thenceforth held sacred and called Kamakhya. As Shiva continued to do penance, the other gods become afraid that he would thereby acquire universal power. They sent Kamadeva, the India cupid, to make him fall in love again and thereby break his penance. He succeeded in his mission, but Shiva was so enraged at the result that he burnt Kamadeva into ashes by a fiery glance of his eyes. Kamadeva
eventually regained his life and his original ‘form’ (Rupa) in Assam and the land where this took place became known as “Kamrup” (Kamrupa).

3.9 Geography:

The Kamrup district is situated between 25.43° and 26.51° North latitudes and between 90.36° and 92.12° East longitudes. The total area of the district is 4345 sq. km. The density per sq. km. is 579.

The district is bounded by foothills of Bhutan and Nalbari district in the North, Meghalaya in the South, Nagaon and Darrang district in the East and Goalpara and Nalbari district in the West.

The climate of Kamrup is sub-tropical with semi-dry summer and cold in winter. The annual rainfall varies between 1500 mm to 2600 mm. The maximum temperature is 38.5°C and the minimum temperature is 7°C. Average humidity is 75 per cent.

Flood occurs generally in the low-lying areas of the district during May to August every year. Late flood also occurs during the later part of September and October. The occurrence of flood in the district is due to the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries. During rainy days the Guwahati city also witnesses localised floods due to poor drainage system in the city. The important rivers of the district are Brahmaputra, Kalangsuti, Digaru, Bharalu, Kulsi and Singra.
The district headquarter is Guwahati. Roadways, railways, airlines and waterways link the district. Road length per thousand sq. km. is 56.7 km. The nearest railway station is situated in Guwahati. Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Airport, Borjhar, Guwahati is also here. The languages commonly used are Assamese, Bengali, English and Hindi. Major crops are rice, wheat, jute and maize. Major plantations are tea, vegetables, potato, cabbage and spices. Major fruits produced are nuts, banana, pineapple, guava and orange. The major minerals found here are granite, feldspar and quartz.

The major tourist attractions are Planatorium, Museum, Zoo, Kalakshetra, Kamakhya temple, Nabagraha temple, Balaji temple, Bhubaneshwari temple, Umananda (the smallest river island in the world), Bashistha Ashram, Hajo (Where three religions-Hinduism, Islam and Buddhist meet), Sualkuchi (famous for Assamese silk industry), Madan Kamdev Devalaya.

The Kamrup district has two sub-divisions Guwahati and Rangia. The numbers of villages in the district are 1379 C.D. Block 17, Gaon Panchayat 177 and Mahkuma Parishad in 2 numbers. The major towns of the district are Guwahati, Palasbari, North Guwahati, Amingaon, Niz Hajo, Sualkuchi and Rangia. The revenue circles are Guwahati, North Guwahati, Dispur, Hajo, Sonapur, Palashbari, Chaigaon, Boko,

3.10 Indicators of growth and development of Kamrup District:

The main indicators of growth and development of Kamrup district are:11

1. **Population:**

   The district of Kamrup has an area of 4345 sq. km. The density per sq. km. is 579. The total population of the district is 2515 thousand where rural population is 1614 thousand and urban population is 900 thousand. The sex-ratio i.e. female per thousand males is 894. The literacy percentage in the Kamrup district is 74.69 percent. The percentage decadal variation in the population of the district i.e. from 1991-2001 is 25.75 percent. The percentage of total Scheduled Caste (S.C.) population is 7.54 percent and that of Scheduled Tribe (S.T.) population is 10.72 percent.

2. **District’s Income:**

   The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Kamrup district at factor cost by industry of origin for 1997-98 at current prices was Rs.3,75,313
lakh where the contribution of primary, secondary and tertiary sector are Rs.53,476 lakh, Rs.71,453 lakh and Rs.2,50,384 lakh. The per capita Gross District Domestic Product was Rs.16,577 lakh.

3. **Agriculture:**

The total cropped area in Kamrup district is 253,195 hectares. Net sown area is 182,258 hectares. The total area under high yielding variety paddy in the district in 2000-01 was 107,632 hectares. The total consumption of fertilizers of Kharif and Rabi crops were 5,849 tonnes and 5,674 tonnes respectively.

4. **Banks:**

The total number of offices of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) in the district in 2001 was 171. The deposits and credit were Rs.3,447.66 lakh and Rs.1,41,385 lakh. The number of offices of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) was 22 and their deposits and credit were Rs.11,160 lakh and Rs.4,709 lakh respectively. The total bank credit of SCBs according to March 2001 was Rs.1,37,398 lakh.

5. **Employment:**

The total number of employment exchange in the district was 5. The total number of registration in the exchange was 21,061. The member in live register was 2,75,447. The vacancies notified were 943 and the placement made through the exchange was 177. The number of
vacancies outstanding was 2,598. The employer that used employment exchanges for employment was 45.

6. **Education:**

The total number of educational institutions in the Kamrup district according to 2001 was 3,633 numbers, which comprises from pre-primary level to Arts, Science, Commerce and Teacher training college, as well as Law college. The total number of literate person according to 2001 was 74.49 percent where 81.34 percent were males and 67.31 percent females respectively.

7. **Industry:**

The total number of registered factories in Kamrup district according to 2000 was 507. The total number of small-scale industries registered under the Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Assam in 2001 was 12,260 numbers.

3.11 **Industrial Infrastructure of Kamrup District:**

There are 12 Industrial Estates and Industrial Area in the district. They are:

1. Industrial Estate at Bamunimaidam.
2. Industrial Area at Bamunimaidam.
3. Bonda Industrial Complex, Bonda.
4. Rani Industrial Area, Rani.
Assam is situated in the northeastern region of India. The total geographical area of the state is 78,438 sq. km. The state is blessed with vast natural resources like mineral resources, forest resources, water resources and power resources. For the industrial development of the state, the government has set up various infrastructural facilities viz. industrial estates, industrial areas, growth centers etc. Some national and state level organisations and institutions like NSIC, IIE, AIDC etc. have also been developed for the same purpose. The total number of small-scale industries that are registered with the Directorate of Industries in the state and in Kamrup district in the year 2000 was 41,875 units and 12,260 units respectively. But the general economic scenario in the state is not so good due to insurgency problem and the financial constraints. Moreover, flood the regular occurrence created much havoc and put strain on the already empty coffers of the state.
REFERENCES:


