INTRODUCTION

The study of the history of Assam under the Ahoms is an interesting endeavor. A foreign power consolidated their domination in the soil of Assam and changed the course of history and civilization of the region. The process of conquest and consolidation of the Ahom kingdom added a new dimension to the polity of the land. A new political set up evolved along with distinct socio-cultural, economic and religious changes. The new environment affected the pattern of relationship between the ruler and the ruled.

Gradually the Ahom emerged as a mighty power in Assam and ruled over the land for six hundred years. The different pre-Ahom chieftaincies, big and small aboriginal kingdoms formed the genesis of the Ahom kingdom.

But eventually the might of the Ahom kingdom in Assam declined in the midst of chaos and confusion created by the Moamariya uprising. The Moamariya uprising was the by-product of the Ahom rule. In course of time the Ahom administrative, socio-cultural, economic, and religious outlook acted as the root of discontentment of the subjects. Some of the very factors of the Ahom rule, which had its strong points and merits, actually turned into the source of discontentment of the subjects in different conditions and circumstances in the course of time.

It was in fact, a gradual process which capsized the monarchy in the form of dissatisfaction of the subjects. These pent up discontentment of centuries outburst in the form of a great uprising—the Moamariya uprising—which pushed the Monarchy for the total destruction.
The scope of our study is to find out the roots of the popular discontentment of the people under the Ahom rules. What was the nature of the discontentment? How these dissatisfactions took the shape of the uprising?

The establishment of the Ahom rule witnessed the rise and fall of several kingdoms and dynasties. The far reaching changes took place in political, economical, religious, social and cultural life of the people of the region.

The chapter—"Historical Background", deals with political history of Assam from the advent of the Ahoms to the possession of the power by the British Raj. Here, we have discussed, the pre-Ahom political condition,—which acted as the genesis of the Ahom kingdom, its population pattern, different racial groups of Assam, origin of the name of Assam, the Ahoms kingdom in Assam, the Moamariya uprising and Burmese invasion along with final occupation of the land by the British.

The administration of Ahoms, its structure and nature, from the prospective of the common people have been dealt with in the subsequent chapter, —"The Administration of the Ahom and Discontentment".

The formation of the Paik and Khels or guild was a kind of a rearrangement of entire society from different prospective. It was a rearrangement of the entire labour power under a kind of feudal system. The Paik and Khel system made drastic changes of the composition of the society under the Ahom. The nature of the relationship of the people and administration was redefined. In the related chapter,—
- "The Paik and Khel system of the Ahom and Discontentment", we have discussed different aspect of the system and its impacts on the people. Efforts have been made to formulate, the type and the nature of displeasure, which the People had to face under this structure.

The composition of the society under the Ahom and their social outlook and behaviors is being dealt in the chapter- "Some Socio-cultural Aspects under the Ahom and Discontentment". Here we have highlighted the different aspects of Ahom's social policy and customs, which created dissatisfaction among the people in the long run and contributed to the popular uprising.

The economic condition of the people and the land revenue system of the state is a vital subject to be dealt with as it also acted as a contributory factor to generate dissatisfaction of the subjects. In the related chapter- "The Pattern of Economy under the Ahom and Condition of Subject", the same have been discussed.

It has already been an established fact that in the late centuries of the Ahom rule the system of justice lost its old glory. In the chapter- "System of Justice under the Ahom and Discontentment" effort has been made to identify the nature of Ahom justice, how the system developed a kind of negative impulse among the people and finally worked as a contributory factor for the uprising.

Religion was a matter of great concern under the Ahom monarchy. It played the main role for the Moamariya uprising. In the chapter "The Religious Discontentment in Assam under the Ahom rules"-
— we have discussed about the contemporary religious sects, the religion of the Ahoms, their Hinduisation, the Neo-Vaisnavite movement, the royal policy toward the Neo-Vaisnavism and its impacts. Measures were taken to analyses how the centuries pent up discontentment of the people got the outlet through religion and completed the manifestation in the form of an uprising – the Moamariya uprising. We are trying to prove that the causes of the decline of the glory of the Ahom rule were the discontentment of the people against the ruling power. The roots of the popular discontent of the people under the Ahom rules were in the system of administration, paik and Khel system, socio-cultural and economic condition of the subjects, the structure of judiciary, and most importantly the religious attitude of the Ahom rulers.