Appendix-2

The decline of the Roman empire, the rivalry between the Byzantine empire and Persia *vis-a-vis* the establishment of Persian monopoly at the maritime trade of the region, the Byzantine empire's starting of the production of silk at home by the end of the 6th century A.D., the expansion of political control of the Islamic Arabs in Asia as far as Sind in north-western India—all combined together to take a heavy toll in India's foreign trade (Maity, S. K., *The Economic Life of Northern India in Gupta Period*, Calcutta, 1957, p. 139; Sharma, R. S., *Indian Feudalism*, 1996, reprint, pp., 54-55). The drainage of Roman gold into India came to a halt. Consequently, the imperial Guptas had to be satisfied with a poor currency. Simultaneously, the practice of giving land to Brāhmaṇas, temples and monastaries, and the officials of higher ranks got a boost during this period. In the post-Gupta period, though an attempt had been made by the Indian traders to establish a strong trading contact with China, it was largely confined to luxury articles (Sharma, R.S., *op cit.*, p. 55). Prāgyotish-Kāmarūpa, being a transit point in this trade must have had enjoyed a major share of profit; but that was not sufficient to give it a different look in the all-India scenario. Again, the use of *kauris* in internal transactions in this period failed to contribute in the rise of foreign trade (Sharma, R. S., *op cit.*, p. 55). Thus, the decline of foreign trade was definitely a factor in the rise of peasant-agricultural economy in Prāgyotiṣa-Kāmarūpa.