PREFACE

The tribals of Manipur have been divided into two major groups such as the Nagas and the Chin-Kuki-Mizos (Zomis). The focus of this thesis is on the politico-economic development of the Zomis formerly known as the Chin-Kuki-Mizos since the attainment of statehood. This study therefore seeks to examine the origin, migration and settlement of the Zomis who have come from China and Burma (Myanmar) and settled in the different parts of North East India. They are found in the different states of India such as Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya. Apart from India they are mostly found in Burma and Bangladesh. This tribe has various sub-tribes who because of many reasons could not form common identity and common dialect in Manipur though one witness that in Mizoram state and Burma they were able to have common identity with common dialect. This study therefore, aims to bring the former Chin-Kuki-Mizo group under the Zomi nomenclature.

This study examines the traditional political institutions of the Zomis and their functioning. As such it examines the origin of chieftainship, its powers and
and functions. It also examines the limitations imposed by the state government through legislations on the powers of the village chiefs which has created many problem relating to proper administration of village, maintenance and utilization of the village resources. It also explores the ways and manner in which the chief's assistants and other village functionaries were operating in the Hill areas to run the village administration. Thus the chief with the help of his Upas or assistants was looking after the socio, cultural, economic and security aspects of the village life. In return to his services to the people the village chief used to get renumeration in kind or cash.

The thesis very clearly examines the growth of modern political institutions with the setting up of Hill Areas Committee, the District Councils and the introduction of democratic elements in the village administration. It also focuses on the operational limitations of these modern institutions obviously on account of shortage of funds, non-delegation of the powers to the District Councils as provided in the District Councils Act, 1971.

The study analyses Tribal political participation in different democratic institutions through elections and
nominations. It reflects that since 1972, the tribals of Manipur including the Zomis have been participating in state assembly elections, parliamentary elections, district council elections, and so on. It also examines the reserved seats for the tribals in the state assembly elections and Lok Sabha elections. It shows the rising trend of the political participation of the Zomis in decision making process at the state legislative assembly membership which rose from 8 in 1972 to 10 in 1995.

In addition to political participation this study is also examines the economic development of the Zomis thereby reflecting the stages of change from backward economy to a forward one. The study analyses various formal and informal agencies, responsible for bringing economic growth and development for the Zomis of Manipur. The formal agencies include both central and state government agencies which have been very active in uplifting the tribals including the Zomis of Manipur. To this effect, the Five Year Plans (First Five Year Plan to Eighth Five Year Plan), state sponsored welfare schemes and central sponsored welfare schemes have been in operation to bring about infrastructural development and economic development of the tribals. Scholarships have been given to the tribals to support them in their studies. Seats
have been reserved for them in the government and semi-
government offices of the Centre as well as the state
government. These schemes to have—to a major extent have
been helpful to bring Tribals — Zomis at par with the other
sections of the society.

The study also analyses the informal agencies
like the church and the church run agencies such as the
North East India Committee on Relief & Development and
Church's Auxiliary on Social Action. The Church and the
church run agencies also have been doing a commendable
job by giving proper school education to the tribals, gi-
ving them relief funds during emergencies and helping them
in launching different projects in the villages for the
development of the tribals.

In spite of all these programmes, policies and
projects launched by the government, it has been observed
that the tribal villagers are still facing many problems in
the field of education, transport and road communication,
agriculture and its allied services, electrification and
health services etc. Thus, it is felt that the different
schemes or projects have not been either properly implemen-
or the money properly utilized.
No detailed study has so far been conducted on the politico-economic development of the Zomis of Manipur. It was, therefore, felt that a detail study of the Politico-economic development of the Zomis would be of great significance for the understanding of their politico-economic problems.

The study has been completed on the basis of primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include records from British official records, District Council records, Legislative Assembly records, election records of the Chief Election Officer, Government of Manipur and other government publication. Besides, data gathered with village chiefs, politicians, church leaders, student leaders and bureaucrats with the help of questionnaire and interview. The secondary sources include books, journals, articles and newspapers.