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Economic Survey

ASSAM 1972

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

FOREWORD

As in the past years, "Economic Survey, Assam 1972" has been prepared with a view to presenting an objective account of the developments and trends in the different sectors of the State's economy in the recent past, incorporating the latest available data.

Although this review is prepared by the Directorate of Statistics of the State Government, the views are not necessarily those of the Govt. of Assam and the latter are in no way responsible for or committed to the views expressed in this publication.

Shillong :
Dated 22nd June, 1973.

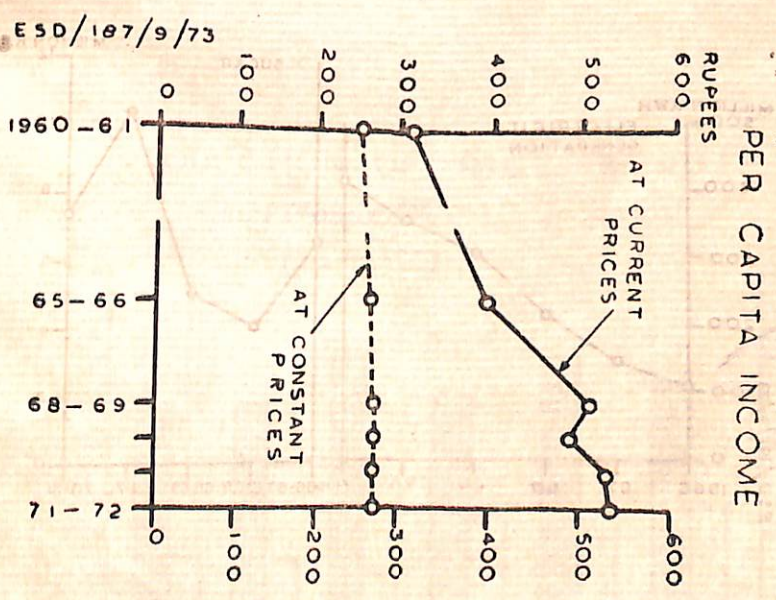
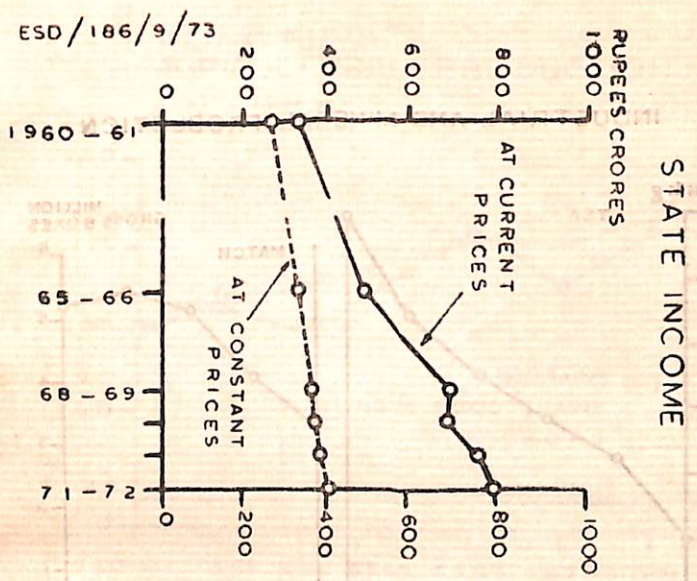
J. N. SARMA,
Director of Statistics.



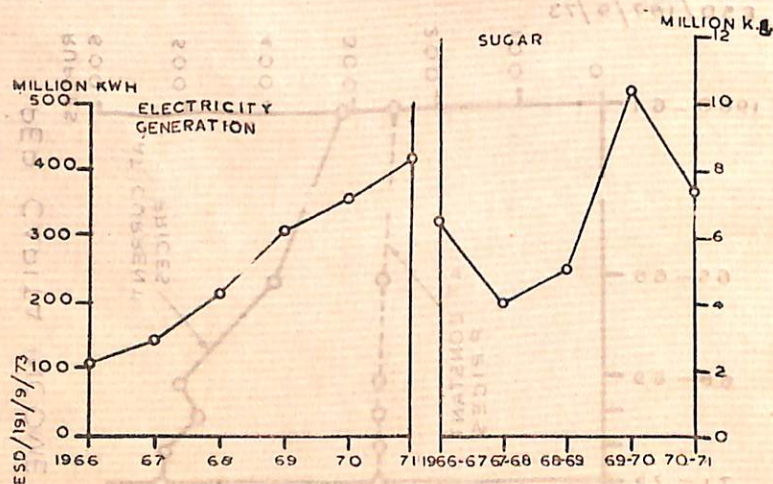
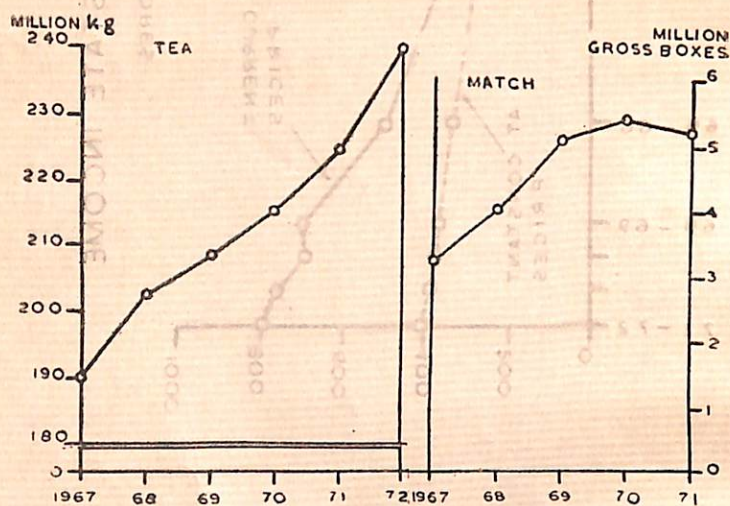
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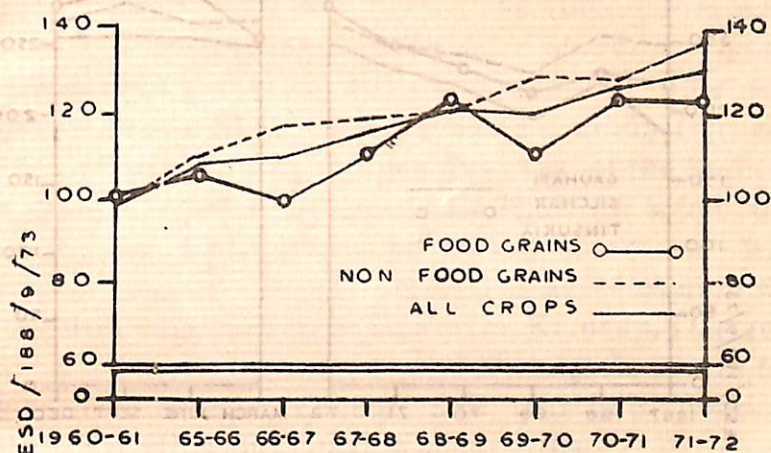


INDUSTRIAL AND MINERAL PRODUCTION

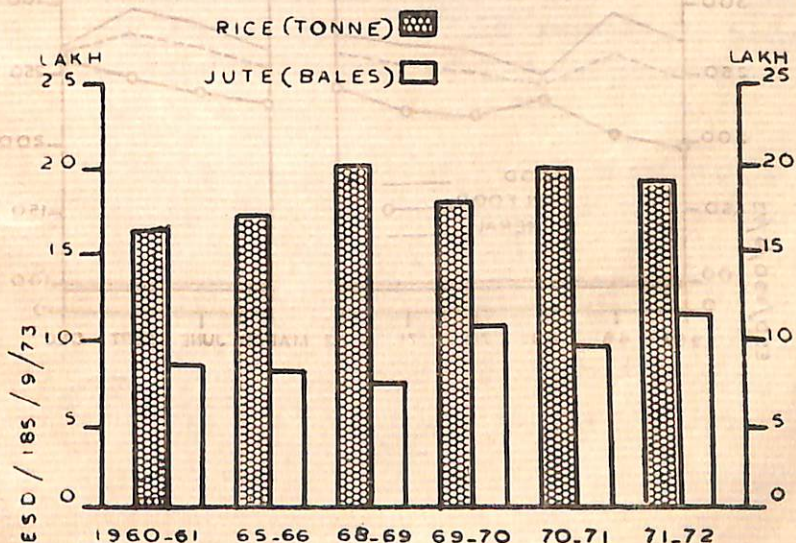


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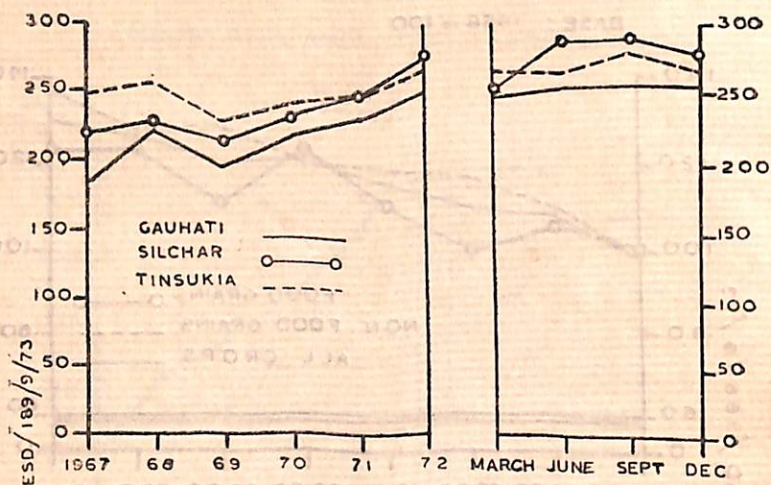
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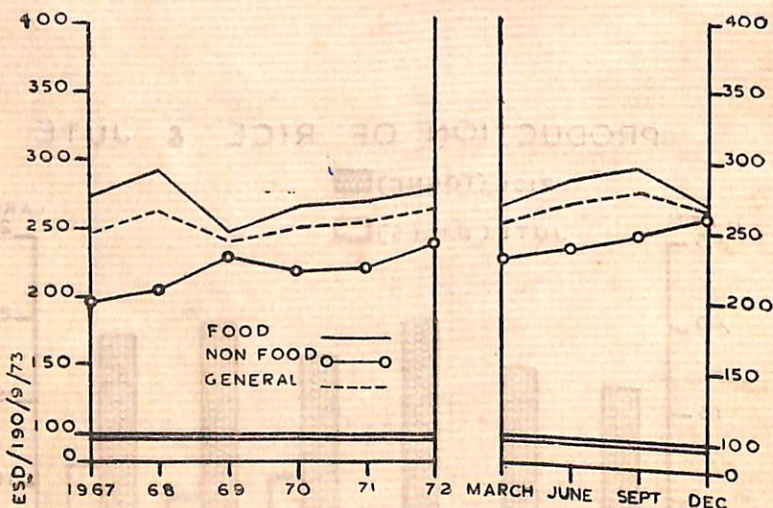
PRODUCTION OF RICE & JUTE



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR WORKING CLASS BASE : 1949 = 100



WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX BASE : 1953 = 100



1. AREA AND POPULATION

1.1 AREA.

The area of the State of Assam had undergone a significant change with the passing of North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. The autonomous state of Meghalaya comprising the districts of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills attained full statehood and the erstwhile Mizo district became a union territory. The reorganisation brought down the area of the State of Assam from 1,22,095 sq. kilometres to 78,523 sq. kilometres accounting for 2.39 percent of India's total area. The State now consists of eight plains districts—seven in the Brahmaputra valley, namely, Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh, one in the Barak valley, namely, Cachar, and two hills districts, namely Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills.

1.2 GROWTH OF POPULATION

1.2.1 Assam's population according to 1971 census was 146 lakhs as against 108 lakhs recorded in the census of 1961. The decennial growth rate of population between these two census years was 34.95 percent which corresponds to a compound annual rate of 3.0 percent. In respect of population Assam ranked ^{thirteenth} ~~twelfth~~ among the States and accounted for 2.67 percent of the total population of the country in 1971.

1.2.2. Population of Assam has been growing at a phenomenal rate since the beginning of this century. The population which was only 33 lakhs in 1901 doubled itself to reach 67 lakhs in 1941. During the next 30 years it again displayed a more than two fold rise. During the two decades 1951-71 population of Assam increased by 82.16 percent as against 51.81 percent for the entire country.

1.2.3. The table below shows the growth of population in Assam and India since 1901.

TABLE—1.1
Trends in Population—Assam and India

	(1)	Population (thousand)		Percentage decade variation	
		India (2)	Assam (2)	India (4)	Assam (5)
1901	...	23,83,37	32,90 (1'38)	...	...
1911	...	25,20,05	38,49 (1'52)	5'73	16'99
1921	...	25,12,39	46,37 (1'85)	0'30	20'47
1931	...	27,88,67	55,61 (1'99)	11'00	19'92
1941	...	31,85,39	66,94 (2'10)	14'23	20'37
1951	...	36,09,50	80,29 (2'22)	13'31	19'94
1961	...	43,90,72	1,08,37 (2'47)	21'64	34'97
1971	...	54,79,49	1,46,25 (2'67)	24'80	34'95

(Figures within bracket indicate percentage to total population of India)

1.2.4 The districtwise area, population density, etc in Assam according to 1971 census are presented in the table given below :—

TABLE—1.2

District (1)	Area in ('000) sq. km. (2)	Population ('000)			Density per sq. km. (6)	Females per thousand males (7)	P. C. of urban population (8)	P.C. growth rate during 1961-71 (9)
		Total (3)	Rural (4)	Urban (5)				
1. Goalpara ...	10'3	2225	2053	172	215	927	7'74	+44'12
2. Kamrup ...	9'9	2854	2519	335	289	890	11'74	+38'38
3. Darrang ...	8'8	1736	1632	104	198	888	5'98	+34'62
4. Lakhimpur } 5. Dibrugarh }	12'8	2123	1870	253	166	869	11'91	+35'74
6. Nowgong ...	5'5	1681	1562	119	302	899	7'10	+38'83
7. Sibsagar ...	9'0	1838	1683	155	204	886	8'42	+21'81
8. Cachar ...	7'0	1713	1577	136	246	923	7'92	+24'29
9. Mikir Hills ...	10'3	379	369	10	37	875	2'69	+68'28
10. N. C. Hills ...	4'9	76	71	5	16	841	6'83	+40'00
11. Total—Assam ...	78'5	1,46,25	1,33,36	12,89	186	896	8'82	+34'95
All-India ...	3,280'5	54,79,50	43,88,56	10,90,94	167	930	19'9	+24'80

As against an overall decadal increase of 34.95 percent in the State during 1951-71, the district growth rates vary from 68.28 percent in the district of Mikir Hills, followed by Goalpara (44.12 percent), to as low as 21.81 percent in the District of Sibsagar.

1.3 DENSITY OF POPULATION

The density of population in Assam was 186 persons per sq. km in 1971 as against 138 persons in 1961. The National average density was 167 persons per sq. km. in 1971 as against 146 persons in 1961. Among all the districts of Assam, Nowgong has got the highest density of population—302 persons per sq. km. and the district

of North Cachar Hills has been ranked at the bottom—16 persons per sq. km.

1.4 SEX RATIO

According to 1971 census, the male and female population were numbered 77,14,240 and 69,10,912 respectively and the sex ratio was worked at 896 females for 1,000 males as against 869 females for 1000 males in 1961. The sex ratio for the country as a whole was 930 females for 1,000 males in 1971.

1.5 LITERACY

Compared to the final All-India figures on literacy in 1971 which increased from 24.03 percent in 1961 to 29.46 percent in 1971, the increase in literacy rate of the State during 1961-71 was insignificant. The literacy rate was 28.1 percent in 1971 as compared to 27.0 percent in 1961. The growth in literacy level among woman has been marked more than that of men. Among the districts, Sibsagar has the highest percentage of literates (36.6 percent) while Mikir Hills district (19.2 percent) has been ranked at the bottom. The table below furnishes the percentage of literates in the different districts of Assam.

TABLE—1.3

Districts		Percentage of Literates in Assam					
		1961 Census			1971 Census		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Goalpara	...	21.1	30.3	10.8	22.0	30.3	13.0
2. Kamrup	...	27.4	39.2	13.5	28.8	38.2	18.2
3. Darrang	...	22.9	31.7	12.6	22.8	30.3	14.3
4. Nowgong	...	27.3	36.4	16.8	28.9	37.0	20.0
5. Sibsagar	...	34.3	45.0	21.9	36.6	44.3	27.9
6. Dibrugarh	...	28.7	38.9	16.4	29.9	38.4	20.2
7. Lakhimpur	...						
8. Cachar	...	28.6	40.2	15.8	30.6	40.4	19.9
9. Mikir Hills	...	16.9	25.6	6.9	19.2	26.9	10.3
10. North Cachar Hills	...	19.6	26.9	11.1	27.3	35.5	17.5
11. Total—Assam	...	27.0	37.3	15.1	28.1	36.7	18.6

1.6 RURAL AND URBAN COMPOSITION OF POPULATION

1.6.1. The rural-urban composition of the population of the State as also of India during the years 1961 and 1971 is indicated in the table given below :—

TABLE—1.4

(1)	1961				1971			
	Total	Rural	Urban	P.C. Urban population	Total	Rural	Urban	P.C. Urban population
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
Assam ...	108	100	8	7.4	146	133	13	8.9
India ...	4391	3602	789	18.0	5479	4388	1091	19.9

Only 9.0 percent of the State's population live in urban areas. The urban population has increased by 65.0 percent during 1961-1971, while the rural population has increased by 32.6 percent during the same period. The All-India percentage of urban population to total population was 19.9 in 1971 as against 18.0 percent in 1961.

1.6.2. The total number of towns in the State has increased from 53 in 1961 to 72 in 1971. Gauhati is the only class I town having a population of over one lakh. There are 4 towns with population between 50 thousand to 1 lakh ; 10 towns in the size group of 20 thousand to 50 thousand ; the remaining 57 towns have population below 20 thousand.

1.6.3 URBAN AGGLOMERATION AND OUTGROWTH

Besides the recognised towns there are other urbanised areas which do not qualify to be treated as towns. The concepts of urban outgrowth and urban agglomeration were developed in the 1971 census to cover such areas. In Assam there are only four cases of urban agglomeration. Gauhati urban agglomeration has been formed with Gauhati Municipality and its outgrowth, Pandu town and its outgrowths and Kamakhya town. Jorhat urban agglomeration has been constituted with Jorhat town and its outgrowth. Bongaigaon urban agglomeration has been formed with the town and New Bongaigaon

Railway colony and Dhubri urban agglomeration consists of the town and its outgrowth. The urban population noted above include the population of urban agglomerations over and above the 72 core towns.

1.7 SIZE OF VILLAGES

While the towns are growing in size and number the villages are also getting more crowded as revealed by the table given below :—

TABLE—1.4

Village size by population

Year	Less than 200	200 to 499	500 to 999	1,000 to 1,999	2,000 to 4,999	5,000 to 9,999	10,000 and above
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1961 CENSUS—							
1. Number of villages	6718	6822	4701	1923	389	12	Nil
2. Percentage of number of villages in the class to total number of villages.	32.67	33.17	22.86	9.35	1.89	0.06	Nil
3. Percentage of population in the class to total rural population.	6.99	23.06	32.80	25.72	10.68	0.75	Nil
1971 CENSUS—							
1. Number of villages	5578	6694	5950	3012	734	26	1
2. Percentage of number of villages in the class to total number of villages.	25.36	30.43	27.05	13.69	3.34	0.12	0.01
3. Percentage of population in the class to total rural population.	4.31	17.11	31.71	30.64	14.94	1.20	0.09

1.8 POPULATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

According to 1971 census, the State's population included 913 thousand persons of scheduled castes or 6.24 percent of the total population of the State and 1607 thousand persons of scheduled tribes or 10.99 percent of the State's population as against 732 thousand persons of scheduled castes and 1165 thousand persons of scheduled tribes in 1961. It may be noted that in the country as a whole the population of schedule castes and scheduled tribes as per 1971 census accounted for about 14.6 percent and 6.9 percent respectively of the total population. Districtwise population of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes as per 1971 census are given in the table below :—

TABLE—1.5
Population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
and their percentage to total population (1971 Census)

District			Persons of Scheduled Castes	P. C. of Scheduled Castes to total population	Persons of Scheduled Tribes	P. C. of Scheduled tribes to total population
(1)			(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Goalpara	...	...	120,006	5.39	308,287	13.85
2. Kamrup	...	...	164,762	5.77	298,090	10.44
3. Darrang	...	...	77,104	4.44	185,640	10.69
4. Nowgong	...	...	167,263	9.95	125,115	7.44
5. Sibsagar	...	...	86,120	4.69	125,311	6.82
6. Dibrugarh	}	...	77,789	3.66	286,300	13.49
7. Lakhimpur		...				
8. Cachar	...	...	208,867	12.19	15,283	0.89
9. Mikir Hills	...	...	9,820	2.59	210,039	55.37
10. North Cachar Hills	...	...	826	1.09	52,583	69.15
State	...	...	912,557	6.24	16,06,648	10.99

1.9 WORKING FORCE

The total number of workers has decreased from 46.09 lakhs in 1961 to 40.88 lakhs in 1971. The labour force participation rates as shown by the 1961 census were 55.6 percent for urban males and 8.5 percent for urban females, 53.8 percent for rural males and 30.8 percent for rural females. The 1971 census revealed that there has been a shift in participation rates; the corresponding rates as shown by the 1971 census were 54.4 percent for urban males and 3.5 percent for urban females, 48.7 percent for rural males and 4.8 percent for rural females. The fall in the labour force participation rates according to 1971 census which was more marked in the case of females, has been mainly attributed to the changes in concept and definitions.

1.10 MIGRATION

1.10.1 The 1971 Census data on migration as indicated by place of birth are not yet available. However, an idea of the extent of migration can be had from estimates of natural growth of population worked out on the basis of data on birth rate and death rate and the actual growth of population as revealed by the census.

1.10.2 The estimates of birth rate and death rate released by the Registrar General of India on the basis of the results of the sample registration scheme implemented by them provide usable estimate of birth and death. The estimate for the years 1969 and 1970 are as follows :—

TABLE—1.6
Estimated live birth and death rates of Assam
per 1000 population

(1)	Birth rate		Death rate		Pooled for the State	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Birth rate	Death rate
1969	40.8	31.1	40.1	16.9
1970	39.5	32.0	38.8	16.2

1.10.3 The population of Assam registered a growth rate of 34.95 percent during the decade 1961-71. This growth rate of 34.95 percent in aggregate, which works out at 3.0% annual compound growth rate, is due to both natural increase in population as well as migration. By taking the difference of the average birth and death rate for the years 1969 and 1970 (presented in table 1.1) we find that the annual natural growth rate of population is 22.9 per thousand. This may be compared with the all-India compound growth rate of population during 1961-71 which is 22.1 per thousand. If the 1961 Census population is projected by using the compound annual growth rate of 2.29% the projected estimated population of Assam in 1971 will stand at 136 lakhs. But the actual population of Assam as per 1971 census is 146 lakhs. The residual increase of 10 lakhs in population of Assam during the decade 1961-71 can be ascribed to migration.

2. INCOME AND POVERTY

2.1 STATE INCOME

2.1.1. National income Statistics provide the most comprehensive single indicator of the level of economic development of a country. State income constitutes the counterpart of national income at State level. However, strictly speaking, the estimates of national income of India and the State income of different States as these are now compiled, are not comparable since the former relates to income accruing to the nationals of the country while the latter relates to income originating within the geographical boundaries of the respective States. Nevertheless, the rates of growth of national income and State income provide a fair basis for comparing the relative growth of their economies.

2.1.2. The estimates of State Income of Assam at current and constant prices are shown below :—

TABLE—2.1
State Income of Assam

Year	At current price	(Rs. in crores) At constant (1948-49) prices
(1)	(2)	(3)
1950-51 ...	236.5	204.4
1955-56 ...	254.6	240.4
1960-61 ...	336.0	267.8
1965-66 ...	493.7	328.0
1968-69 ...	694.9	366.7
1969-70 ...	684.2	376.2
1970-71 ...	757.7	389.9
1971-72 (P) ...	793.9	405.3

NOTE :—The estimates presented above relate to Assam as constituted at present and therefore, differs from the estimates presented in the earlier issues of Economic Survey.

During last two decades (1951-71) the total income at current prices increased by 235.7 percent while at constant (1948-49) prices it increased by only 98.3 percent.

2.1.3. The compound growth rates of State income of Assam at constant (1948-49) prices based on end point values given in table 2.1, over the various plans/periods work out as follows :—

TABLE—2.2

Plan period	Compound Annual growth rate
(1)	(2)
First Five Year Plan (1951-56) ...	3.3 percent
Second Five Year plan (1956-61) ...	2.2 "
Third Five Year Plan (1961-66) ...	4.1 "
Ad-hoc Annual Plans (1966-69) ...	3.8 "
First Three Years of Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-72) ...	3.4 "

2.1.4. The estimates of per capita State Income of Assam and per capita National income since 1960-61 are shown in the following table :—

TABLE—2.3

Per capita Income (Rupees)

(1)	ASSAM		INDIA	
	At current Prices	At constant (1948-49) prices	At current prices	At constant (1960-61) prices
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1960-61	315.3	251.3	306.1	306.1
1965-66	398.7	264.9	425.0	309.8
1968-69	513.4	270.9	548.8	324.6
1969-70	490.7	269.8	597.4	341.0
1970-71	527.6	271.5	633.1	348.9
1971-72 (P)	534.8	273.0	N. A.	N. A.

(P) Provisional

2.1.5. Apart from the difference in concepts of National Income and State Income noted in para 2.1.1. above, a direct comparison of per capita national income and State income is vitiated by difference in the price level obtained in Assam and the average price level for the country as a whole. No precise indicators of comparative price level or price deflator to reduce State income estimates at local prices to estimates at all-India prices is available. However, several studies have revealed that the price level in Assam had been substantially higher than the all-India level. It may be noted that the Planning Board of Assam has accepted a price deflator of 20 percent for the purpose.

TABLE 2.4

Estimates of State Income of Assam by Industrial origin
at current prices.

(Rs Crores)

Sl. No.	INDUSTRY	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72 (P)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
AGRICULTURE									
1	Agriculture proper	120.2 (50.8)	105.6 (41.5)	129.5 (38.5)	185.9 (37.7)	321.8 (46.3)	282.4 (41.1)	329.1 (43.8)	334.0 (42.1)
2	Tea cultivation	28.0 (11.8)	31.1 (12.2)	33.7 (10.0)	38.7 (7.8)	48.0 (6.2)	46.6 (6.9)	52.5 (7.0)	56.2 (7.1)
3	Animal husbandry	5.3 (2.2)	10.3 (4.0)	14.4 (4.4)	18.1 (3.7)	27.0 (3.9)	27.2 (4.0)	30.6 (4.1)	30.0 (3.8)
4	Forestry	1.3 (0.6)	2.0 (0.8)	5.1 (1.5)	11.3 (2.3)	13.1 (1.9)	12.8 (1.9)	12.0 (1.6)	14.5 (1.8)
5	Fishing	2.3 (1.0)	2.1 (0.8)	3.0 (0.9)	4.4 (0.9)	6.5 (0.9)	6.3 (0.9)	6.7 (0.9)	6.0 (0.8)
6	Total Agriculture	157.1 (66.4)	151.1 (59.3)	185.7 (55.3)	258.4 (52.4)	411.4 (59.2)	375.3 (54.8)	430.9 (57.4)	440.7 (55.6)
MINING, MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION									
7	Mining	2.8 (1.2)	4.1 (1.6)	5.4 (1.6)	16.5 (3.3)	26.6 (3.8)	30.1 (4.4)	30.2 (4.0)	37.0 (4.7)
8	Processing of tea	18.6 (7.9)	20.7 (8.1)	22.4 (6.7)	25.8 (3.2)	28.6 (4.1)	31.0 (4.5)	35.0 (4.7)	37.4 (4.6)
9	Factory establishment (other than processing of tea)	5.4 (2.3)	6.8 (2.7)	8.6 (2.5)	13.2 (2.7)	19.5 (2.8)	20.2 (3.0)	20.5 (2.7)	24.7 (3.1)
10	Small enterprises	15.0 (6.3)	18.8 (7.4)	26.6 (7.9)	34.5 (7.0)	38.4 (5.6)	41.0 (6.0)	41.8 (5.6)	44.1 (5.6)
11	Construction	0.8 (0.3)	1.1 (0.4)	6.4 (1.9)	10.2 (2.0)	10.1 (1.4)	11.2 (1.6)	11.2 (1.5)	11.6 (1.4)
12	Total Mining, manufacturing and construction	42.6 (18.0)	51.5 (20.9)	69.4 (20.6)	100.1 (20.2)	123.2 (17.7)	133.5 (19.5)	138.7 (18.5)	154.8 (19.4)
COMMERCE, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION									
13	Banking, Insurance, money, lending and other financial business	0.3 (0.1)	0.3 (0.1)	0.9 (0.3)	1.1 (0.2)	1.7 (0.2)	1.9 (0.3)	2.0 (0.3)	2.3 (0.3)
14	Railways and State Transport	2.4 (1.0)	2.9 (1.1)	7.6 (2.3)	15.2 (3.1)	13.0 (1.9)	13.9 (2.0)	14.6 (1.9)	18.0 (2.3)
15	Other commerce and transport	18.7 (8.0)	24.4 (9.6)	37.7 (11.2)	56.7 (11.5)	69.9 (10.1)	75.4 (11.0)	78.2 (10.4)	82.1 (10.3)
16	Communication	0.3 (0.1)	0.4 (0.2)	0.7 (0.2)	1.0 (0.2)	1.3 (0.2)	1.4 (0.3)	1.4 (0.3)	1.5 (0.2)
17	Total commerce Transport & Communication	21.7 (9.2)	28.0 (11.0)	46.9 (14.0)	74.0 (15.0)	85.9 (12.4)	92.6 (13.6)	96.2 (12.9)	103.9 (13.1)
OTHER SERVICES									
18	Profession and liberal arts	3.3 (1.4)	5.0 (1.9)	6.9 (2.1)	14.8 (3.0)	18.1 (2.6)	20.5 (3.0)	21.3 (2.8)	22.5 (2.8)
19	Government Services	3.9 (1.6)	8.9 (3.6)	13.5 (4.0)	25.3 (5.1)	30.1 (4.3)	34.1 (5.0)	42.3 (4.7)	43.1 (5.4)
20	Domestic and other services	6.6 (2.8)	8.6 (3.4)	11.3 (3.3)	16.2 (3.3)	17.9 (2.6)	19.5 (2.8)	18.7 (2.5)	19.1 (2.5)
21	House proert	1.3 (0.6)	1.5 (0.6)	2.3 (0.7)	4.8 (1.0)	8.3 (1.2)	8.7 (1.3)	9.6 (1.2)	9.8 (1.2)
22	Total other services	15.1 (6.4)	24.0 (9.5)	34.0 (10.1)	61.1 (12.4)	74.4 (10.7)	82.8 (12.1)	91.9 (11.2)	94.5 (11.9)
23	Total Net Domestic product at factor cost	236.5 (100.0)	254.6 (100.0)	336.0 (100.0)	493.7 (100.0)	694.9 (100.0)	684.2 (100.0)	757.7 (100.0)	793.9 (100.0)

Note—Figures within brackets indicate per centages to Total

P₂ Provisional

TABLE 2.5
Estimates of State Income of Assam by Industrial
Origin at constant (1948-49) prices

		(Rs. crores)							
Sl. No.	INDUSTRY	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72 (P)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
AGRICULTURE									
1	Agriculture proper	106.7 (52.2)	121.2 (50.4)	113.2 (42.3)	109.4 (33.3)	125.4 (34.0)	121.6 (32.2)	123.1 (32.1)	128.9 (31.8)
2	Tea cultivation	19.0 (9.3)	19.8 (8.3)	20.5 (7.8)	23.5 (7.2)	26.0 (7.2)	26.9 (7.1)	27.8 (7.3)	28.4 (7.0)
3	Animal husbandry & fishing	8.5 (4.2)	8.8 (3.8)	13.5 (5.0)	16.3 (5.0)	15.1 (4.3)	16.4 (4.4)	16.6 (4.3)	17.0 (4.2)
4	Forestry	1.8 (0.9)	2.4 (0.9)	3.9 (1.5)	6.6 (2.0)	8.4 (2.3)	8.9 (2.4)	8.3 (2.2)	8.6 (2.1)
5	Total Agriculture	136.0 (66.6)	152.2 (63.4)	151.1 (56.6)	155.8 (47.4)	174.9 (47.8)	173.8 (46.1)	175.8 (45.9)	182.9 (45.1)
MINING, MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION									
6	Mining	1.7 (0.8)	2.3 (0.9)	2.8 (1.0)	10.7 (3.3)	13.8 (3.8)	15.7 (4.2)	15.8 (4.1)	16.5 (4.1)
7	Processing of tea	12.7 (6.2)	13.2 (5.4)	13.6 (5.1)	15.7 (4.8)	17.5 (4.8)	18.0 (4.8)	18.6 (4.9)	18.9 (4.7)
8	Factory Establishment (Other than processing of tea)	5.5 (2.7)	7.9 (3.3)	9.5 (3.5)	21.0 (6.5)	23.6 (7.0)	24.1 (6.4)	23.9 (6.3)	25.2 (6.2)
9	Small Enterprises	12.4 (6.1)	17.1 (7.1)	20.9 (7.8)	22.8 (7.0)	27.1 (7.4)	27.8 (7.4)	27.5 (7.1)	27.6 (6.8)
10	Construction	0.7 (0.3)	0.9 (0.4)	5.9 (2.2)	9.3 (2.8)	9.0 (2.5)	9.2 (2.4)	9.5 (2.4)	9.8 (2.4)
11	Total Mining Manufacturing and construction	33.0 (16.1)	41.4 (17.1)	52.7 (19.6)	79.5 (24.4)	91.0 (24.9)	94.8 (25.2)	95.3 (24.8)	98.0 (24.2)
COMMERCE, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION									
12	Banking, Insurance, Money-lending and other financial business.	0.3 (0.1)	0.3 (0.1)	0.9 (0.3)	1.1 (0.3)	1.7 (0.5)	1.9 (0.5)	2.0 (0.5)	2.3 (0.6)
13	Railways and State Transport	2.4 (1.2)	2.9 (1.2)	7.6 (2.8)	15.2 (4.6)	13.0 (3.5)	13.9 (3.6)	14.6 (3.8)	15.2 (3.8)
14	Others commerce and Transport	17.9 (8.8)	21.6 (9.0)	26.0 (9.7)	29.9 (9.1)	32.6 (8.8)	33.8 (9.0)	35.3 (9.2)	38.3 (9.4)
15	Communication	0.2 (0.1)	0.3 (0.1)	0.6 (0.2)	1.0 (0.3)	1.3 (0.4)	1.4 (0.5)	1.4 (0.5)	1.5 (0.4)
16	Total commerce, Transport and Communication	20.8 (10.2)	25.1 (10.4)	35.1 (13.0)	47.2 (14.3)	48.6 (13.2)	51.0 (13.6)	53.3 (14.0)	57.3 (14.2)
OTHER SERVICES									
17	Professions and liberal Arts	3.1 (1.5)	3.8 (1.6)	4.8 (1.8)	8.0 (2.4)	8.6 (2.3)	9.0 (2.4)	9.3 (2.4)	9.8 (2.4)
18	Government services	3.9 (1.9)	8.9 (3.7)	13.5 (5.0)	25.3 (7.7)	30.1 (8.2)	34.1 (9.1)	42.3 (9.2)	43.1 (10.6)
19	Domestic and other services	6.4 (3.1)	7.4 (3.1)	8.5 (3.2)	8.7 (2.7)	9.6 (2.6)	9.7 (2.6)	9.8 (2.6)	10.0 (2.5)
20	House property	1.2 (0.6)	1.6 (0.7)	2.1 (0.8)	3.5 (1.1)	3.7 (1.0)	3.8 (1.0)	4.1 (1.1)	4.2 (1.0)
21	Total other services	14.6 (7.1)	21.7 (9.1)	28.9 (10.8)	45.5 (13.9)	52.0 (14.1)	56.6 (15.1)	65.5 (15.3)	67.1 (16.5)
22	TOTAL NET DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST	204.4 (100.0)	240.4 (100.0)	267.8 (100.0)	328.0 (100.0)	366.5 (100.0)	376.2 (100.0)	389.9 (100.0)	405.3 (100.0)

Note:—Figures within brackets indicate percentages. P=Provisional

2.1.6. Industrial Distribution of income :—Estimates of State Income of Assam by industrial distribution at current and constant (1948-49) prices for the years from 1950-51 to 1971-72 are shown in tables 2.4 and 2.5 respectively. It will be seen that there has been a gradual transformation in the industrial structure of the State's economy. The share of income from agriculture to total net domestic product at current prices has come down from 66.4 percent in 1950-51 to 55.6 percent in 1971-72 (Table 2.4), while at constant prices a steeper fall in percentage share of income from agriculture, from 66.7 percent in 1950-51 it has come down to 45.1 percent in 1971-72 (Table 2.5), is noticeable. The share of income from each of the three industrial sectors viz. mining, manufacturing and construction, commerce transport and communication and other services have been rising.

2.2. INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND PERSONS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINES :—

2.2.1. Statistics on income distribution i.e. per capita income according to income groups are not available either for the State or the country as a whole. However, data on per capita monthly expenditure in Assam by expenditure classes are available from the different rounds of N.S.S. and from these data a reasonable idea of income distribution in the State may be had.

2.2.2. Table below shows the distribution of population by monthly per capita expenditure class in the rural and urban areas of Assam in 1970-71 as per 25th Round of the N.S.S.

TABLE—2.6

Monthly per capital expenditure Classes (in Rs.)	RURAL 1970-71 (Percent)	URBAN 1970-71 (Percent)
Rs. 0 and less than 8	0.01	—
Rs. 8 and less than 11	0.20	—
Rs. 11 and less than 13	0.38	—
Rs. 13 and less than 15	1.28	0.16
Rs. 15 and less than 18	—	0.69
Rs. 18 and less than 21	—	—

TABLE—2.6—contd.

(1)	(2)	(3)
Rs. 21 and less than 24	1.66	0.52
Rs. 24 and less than 28	4.80	2.42
Rs. 28 and less than 34	23.54	7.51
Rs. 34 and less than 43	36.54	152.77
Rs. 43 and less than 55	21.53	31.37
Rs. 55 and less than 75	7.93	26.12
Rs. 75 and above	2.13	15.44
Total	100.00	100.00

(Note :—The above estimates are provisional and based on the State sample only.)

2.2.3. In the Fourth Plan document private consumption of Rs.20 per capita per month at 1960-61 prices were deemed a minimum desirable consumption standard. Recently the Planning Commission in their document Approach to the Fifth Plan, indicated that the poverty line has been drawn at Rs. 40/-per capita per month at current prices (October 1972).

2.2.4. On the basis of the above distribution of population by expenditure classes the percentage of persons with monthly consumption below Rs. 40.00 works out at 22 percent in urban areas and 56 percent in rural areas. Using the projected urban and rural population of Assam which have been placed at 14 lakhs and 139 lakhs respectively, the total number of persons below the poverty line in Assam may be placed at 3 lakhs for urban and 78 lakhs in rural areas giving a total of 81 lakhs or 53 percent of the total population.

2.2.5. It has been estimated that the consumer price level in Assam is about 20% higher than all India. Accordingly for Assam at comparable prices the poverty line of Rs. 40.00 ought to be raised to Rs. 48.00. Taking Rs. 48.00 as the poverty line, the estimated number of persons below the poverty line in Assam would be 6 lakhs (40%) and 107 lakhs (77%) in urban and rural areas respectively making a total of 113 lakhs (74%) for the State as a whole.

3. AGRICULTURE.

3.1 Assam is overwhelmingly an agricultural State, and agriculture is the basis of the State's economy. According to the provisional estimates of State income for 1971-72, agriculture alone contributed 55.6 percent of the total income of the State. More than 70 percent of the population of the State derive their means of subsistence mainly from this sector. According to 1971 census, agricultural workers accounted for 65.7 percent of the total working force of the State.

3.2 Detailed statistics on land utilisation in Assam are available only upto the year 1958-69. At the end of the agricultural year 1958-69 the total cultivable area of the State was 29.2 lakh hectares or 37.2 percent of the total geographical area of the State which is 78.5 lakh hectares. The position regarding the utilisation of land in the State and in the country as a whole is indicated in the table respectively 3.1 & 3.2 below :—

TABLE 3.1
Land Utilisation in Assam

Classification	('000 Hectares)				
	1951-52	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1969-70(P)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Gross cropped area	2,203	2,335	2,425	2,575	2,773
2. Area under foodgrains	1,634	1,686	1,804	1,905	2,086
3. Net area sown	1,890	1,993	2,052	2,131	2,226
4. Area sown more than once	313	342	373	444	548
5. Percentage of area sown more than once to net area sown.	16.6	17.2	18.2	20.8	24.6
6. Percentage of area under foodgrains to gross cropped area.	74.3	72.2	74.4	73.8	75.2
7. Per capita net area sown (hectares)	0.23	0.22	0.19	0.17	0.16

TABLE 3.2
Land Utilisation of India

Classification	('000 Hectares)				
	1951-52	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1968-69 (P)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Gross cropped area	133,234	147,311	152,716	154,898	159,160
2. Net area sown	119,401	129,156	133,157	135,829	137,611
3. Area sown more than once	13,833	18,155	19,559	19,069	21,549
4. Per capita net area sown (hectares)	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.27	0.26

P—Provisional

3.3 Food crops :—Rice is the most important crop covering more than two thirds of the total area under cultivation. Winter rice commonly known as sali or Aman is the main variety and autumn or Ahu is the other variety. A third variety of minor importance known as summer rice is also cultivated in the State. Till 1968-69, wheat cultivation was insignificant ; but recently its cultivation has been encouraged as evident from the production of wheat in 1971-72. The other food crops are potato, sugarcane, maize and pulses.

3.4 Non-food crops :—Among non-food crops, Jute and tea being the principal cash crops occupy not only a pivotal position in Assam's economy but also contribute much to the foreign exchange earnings of the country. The other non-food crops grown in the State are mesta, tobacco, oil seeds etc.

3.5 The bulk of the cultivated area in the State is devoted to the production of food crops, mainly rice. Out of the gross cropped area of 2,111 thousand hectares under foodgrains in 1971-72, area under rice was 1,967 thousand hectares or 93.2 p.c. of the total area under foodgrains. Till the end of 1969-70, area under wheat cultivation was insignificant ; but with the launching of a massive emergency scheme for additional production of foodgrains, wheat cultivation has been encouraged in the State by supplying wheat seeds at 25 ~~percent~~ ^{percent} subsidised rate to the farmers. The area under wheat cultivation was 40 thousand hectares or 1.9 percent of the area under foodgrains in 1971-72. The core of the emergency production programme was to wipe out the damages wrought by the flood during 1972 to the kharif crops. The area under the cultivation of Maize and pulses represented 0.6 percent and 4.1 percent of the total area under foodgrains in 1971-72. District-wise area under foodgrains and the areas under different items of food grains are furnished respectively in tables 3.3 and 3.4 below :—

TABLE—3.3
District-wise area under food-grains

(Thousand hectares)

District	1951-52	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Goalpara	224	231	250	318	365	365	364	377
Kamrup	414	411	424	446	470	472	471	483
Darrang	215	228	240	242	255	257	261	264
Nowgong	198	217	225	215	231	230	223	219
Sibsagar	214	221	245	244	251	253	258	248
Lakhimpur	182	170	186	196	228	238	242	133
Dibrugarh								121
Cachar	172	183	199	206	210	207	206	198
Plains Total	1,619	1,661	1,769	1,867	2,010	2,022	2,025	2,043
Mikir Hills	15	25	35	38	55	64	54	55
N. C. Hills							12	13
Asaam	1,634	1,686	1,804	1,905	2,065	2,086	2,091	2,111

TABLE—3.4
Area under different foodgrains

(Thousand hectares)

	1960-61	1965-66	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Autumn Rice	395	461	522	522	528	520
2. Winter Rice	1,304	1,321	1,399	1,415	1,414	1,416
3. Spring Rice	17	16	31	31	26	31
Total Rice	1,716	1,798	1,952	1,968	1,968	1,967
4. Wheat	4	5	7	9	21	40
5. Maize	6	10	11	11	12	12
6. Other cereals Millets	4	5	5	5	5	6
Total Cereals	1,730	1,818	1,975	1,993	2,006	2,025
7. Pulses	74	87	90	93	85	86
Total foodgrains	1,804	1,905	2,065	2,086	2,091	2,111

3.6 Average yield of foodgrains :—Though the yield rates of all foodgrains taken together shows a fluctuating trend from year to year, the average yield rate per hectare in 1971-72 is substantially higher than the yield rate of 1951-52. During 1971-72, the yield rate of wheat was very encouraging. The productivity of rice per hectare during 1971-72, decreased by 3.8 p.c from the preceding year. The crop-wise details of yield rates in Kilograms per hectare for the years 1951-52, 1955-56, 1960-61, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 are presented in Table 3.5.

TABLE 3.5
Yield Rates in kilograms per hectare

	1951-52	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Rice	918	980	968	968	895	957	1035	916	1022	985
Maize	700	457	525	506	546	547	546	548	543	548
Wheat	896	504	824	696	629	643	621	621	584	1,200
Other cereals	502	487	497	475	496	496	492	494	500	494
Gram	567	457	536	502	502	527	527	516	542	547
Tur	325	730	666	700	701	704	706	709	711	710
Other Pulses	329	392	341	478	412	412	414	376	360	336
All foodgrains	889	951	940	941	874	933	1003	888	987	959

3.7 The average yield rate of rice in kilogram per hectare of land in Assam and also in some of the States of the Indian Union for the years 1966-67 to 1971-72 is presented in the following table :—

TABLE—3.6
Average Yield of Rice in kg./hect.

States	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam	895	957	1,035	916	1,022	985
Andhra Pradesh	1,460	1,375	1,422	1,424	1,359	1,579
Kerala	1,356	1,388	1,513	1,392	1,484	1,533
West Bengal	1,038	1,105	1,292	1,266	1,239	1,304
Punjab	1,196	1,322	1,361	1,490	1,765	2,042
All-India	863	1,032	1,076	1,073	1,223	1,145

3.8 A wide range of variations is marked in the average yield (three yearly) of rice in kilograms per hectare of land in different districts of Assam as evident from the table given below :—

TABLE—3.7
Average yield (three yearly) of rice in kg./Hect.

Districts	1951-54	1969-72
1	2	3
1. Goalpara	983	820
2. Kamrup	766	761
3. Darrang	1,085	990
4. Nowgong	995	874
5. Sibsagar	1,113	1,228
6. Dibrugarh	1,169	1,140
7. Lakhimpur	939	1,160
8. Cachar	909	1,362
9. Mikir Hills		1,346
10. N. C. Hills		

3.9 The compound growth rate of Agricultural productivity in Assam and in the country as a whole is worked out as follows :—

TABLE—3.8
Compound growth of Agricultural Productivity
in Assam and India.

	(Percentage)	
	Assam From 1951-54 to 1969-72	India From 1951-54 to 1968-71.
1	2	3
1. Rice	0.0	1.2
2. Jute	0.1	0.2
3. Rape & Mustard	0.2	1.4
4. Potato	1.4	0.6
5. Sugarcane (Gur)	1.6*	1.2

*Growth rate during 1957-60 to 1969-72

3.10 Commercial Crops. :—Tea is the most important commercial crop of the State. In 1969-70, area under tea cultivation accounted for more than 8 percent of the total net area sown in the State. Most of the tea gardens are concentrated in the districts of Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Darrang and Cachar. During the period of two decades 1951-1971, area under tea increased from 1.56 lakh hectares to 1.80 lakh hectares or by 15.4 percent and represented more than half of all-India total area under tea. The production of tea rose from 150.4 million k.g. in 1951 to 225.2 million k.g. in 1971 or by 49.7 percent. There has also been an increase in the yield of tea per hectare which rose from 966 k.g. in 1951 to 1272 k.g. in 1971.

3.11 Jute being the other important commercial crop accounted for nearly 7 percent of the total net area sown in 1969-70. Assam produces about one fifth of the total raw jute production of the country during 1971-72. Jute is cultivated mainly in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong. The area under tea cultivation of Jute increased from 123 thousand hectares in 1951-52 to 143 thousand hectares in 1971-72 or by 16.3 percent and the production increased from 743 thousand bales in 1951-52 to 1138 thousand bales in 1971-72 or by 53.2 percent. The yield rate per hectare rose from 1084 kilograms in 1951-52 to 1437 kilograms in 1971-72.

3.12 The other important commercial crops of the State are sugarcane, rape and mustard and potato. A trend in the productivity of some important commercial crops with their respective areas is shown in the table below :—

TABLE—3.9

Yield rates of and areas under the important commercial crops grown in Assam

A=Area in thousand hectares

Y=Yield per hectare in kilograms

Crops		1951-52	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
1.		2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Jute	A	123	129	126	127	105	120	129	143
	Y	1,084	1,472	1,229	1,162	1,304	1,584	1,304	1,437
Sugarcane	A	24	25	27	30	31	33	32	34
	Y	27,929	26,071	34,403	33,041	35,360	47,887	37,217	37,716
Rape & Mustard	A	118	112	114	125	130	131	137	136
	Y	438	457	381	438	361	371	411	469
Potato	A	18	20	22	24	26	26	24	26
	Y	4,988	4,717	4,784	2,047	5,041	3,576	4,524	5,067

3.13 Agricultural production :— Growth of agricultural production in Assam has been disappointing in comparison with the growth rate of other states of the country. Between 1960-61 and 1970-71 the compound annual increase of foodgrains production in Assam was 2.0 percent as against an increase of 12.4 percent in Himachal Pradesh, 8.8 percent in Gujarat, 6.9 percent in Rajasthan, 6.5 percent in Haryana and 2.8 percent in the country. During 1971-72, foodgrains production in Assam declined by 1.9 percent as against a decline of 2.9 percent in the overall foodgrains production of the country.

3.14 There has been many ups and downs in the agricultural production of the state due to the occurrence of floods every year. Despite the damage caused to various crops, there has been more or less a steady uptrend in the agricultural production of the State.

Food-grains production during 1968-69 stood at 20.41 lakh tonnes which declined to 18.26 lakh tonnes in 1969-70. It rose to 20.34 lakh tonnes in 1970-71 and again declined to 19.96 lakhs tonnes in 1971-72. Total

agricultural production (foodgrains and non-food grains) in the State also decreased by 1.4 percent during 1969-70 over 1968-69. During 1971-72, an increase of 3.86 percent has been noticed in total agricultural production over the previous year.

The production of foodgrains during 1972-73 is expected to be higher than the previous year due to the launching of the emergency rabi food production programme by the State. The production of some important crops during the years 1960-61, 1965-66, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 is indicated in the table given below :

TABLE—3.10

Crop	Unit	1960-61	1965-66	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	6.	8.
Rice	... Thousand tonnes	1,633	1,713	1,990	1,776	1,980	1,908
Wheat	...	3	3	4	6	12	48
Maize	...	3	5	6	6	7	6
Other cereals	...	2	2	2	2	3	3
All cereals	...	1,641	1,723	2,002	1,790	2,002	1,965
Pulses	...	27	38	39	36	32	31
Total foodgrains	...	1,668	1,761	2,041	1,826	2,034	1,996
Oil seeds	...	48	61	53	55	62	70
Sugarcane (Gur)	...	92	106	117	161	126	113
Potato	...	105	50	130	94	111	131
Sweet potato	...	13	17	20	23	21	23
Tobacco	...	7	7	7	7	6	7
Jute	... Thousand bales	858	823	760	1,058	937	1,138
Mesta	...	19	41	26	27	24	36
Cotton	...	2	3	3	2	2	2

The Index numbers of Agricultural production in Assam for food grains non-food grains and combined for all crops and for the country combined for all crops are shown below :—

TABLE—3.11

Index of Agricultural production.
Assam (excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram)

Base : 1956-57 = 100.

	Foodgrains	Non-Foodgrains	All Crops	India all crops (Base—1956-57=100)
1950-51	79.41	92.39	86.72	77
1955-56	95.11	97.65	96.34	94
1960-61	101.23	99.00	99.97	115
1965-66	106.24	109.56	108.11	107
1966-67	101.53	116.58	110.01	106
1967-68	110.58	118.75	115.18	130
1968-69	123.04	121.76	122.32	129
1969-70	109.86	128.97	120.63	138
1970-71	123.28	128.29	126.10	147
1971-72	123.13	137.04	130.97	—

3.15 Modern Developments in Agriculture :— Dynamic changes are expected to take place in agriculture with the evolution of high yielding varieties and adoption of modern and improved agricultural practices. The area under the high yielding varieties of rice rose to 188 thousand hectares in 1971-72 from 26 thousand hectares in 1967-68. The estimated area of high yielding varieties of rice during 1972-73 was estimated at 250 thousand hectares and the area under high yielding varieties of wheat was almost double between the period 1967-68 and 1970-71. The strategy envisaged for enhancing agricultural production included progressive increase of area under high yielding varieties of crops, conversion of traditional monoculture system into a multiple cropping one, popularisation of the use of fertilisers, increase of irrigation potential by flow irrigation power pumps both diesel and electric.

3.16 Fertiliser Consumption :— Compared with other states fertiliser consumption in Assam is not encouraging. To facilitate a comparative study of fertiliser consumption in Assam, some other States of the Country and the country as a whole the following table is provided.

TABLE—3.12

Consumption of Fertiliser in 1970-71 (April-March)
(tonnes)

	N (Nitrogen)	P 205 (Phosphoric acid)	K 20 (Potash)	(total)
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1. Assam	5,000	2,100	1,550	8,650*
2. Andhra Pradesh	207,000	59,000	17,159	283,159
3. Tamil Nadu	165,000	54,000	40,000	259,000
4. Maharashtra	111,238	51,973	36,053	199,264
5. Punjab	174,766	31,362	7,002	213,130
6. Bihar	74,505	17,679	7,042	99,226
7. West Bengal	46,675	12,392	13,759	72,826
8. All India	1,487,131	461,978	228,198	2,177,307

*Provisional

N.B. :—The quantity of Ammonium sulphate distributed to tea factories (N.E. India) was 279 tonnes in 1970-71.

Source :—Publication of the Fertiliser Association of India Dec./1971

3.17 Consumption of fertiliser per unit of cropped area (kilogram per hectare) in Assam was 2.92 during the year 1970-71 as against 22.74 in Andhra Pradesh, 19.86 in Kerala, 37.46 in Tamil Nadu, 40.31 in Punjab, 9.11 in Bihar, 13.63 in West Bengal and 13.67 in All India.

3.18 In order to deal with the supply of agricultural inputs, engineering machinery, tractors, improved seeds etc., two separate corporations namely Assam Agro-Industries Development Corporation Ltd. and Assam Seeds Corporation Ltd. were formed during the Ad-hoc-plan periods (1966-67 to 1968-69)

3.19 The Assam Agro-Industries Development Corporation has been entrusted with the task of distributing agricultural inputs such as fertiliser, pesticides and all sorts of Agricultural inputs among the cultivators through its various centres scattered all over the State. Improved seeds are produced in a large number of seed farms under the State Seed Corporation. The supply of seeds like hybrid maize has been arranged through the National Seeds Corporation.

3.20 Under a central scheme for small farmers and agricultural labourers four projects were taken up in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Nowgong and Mikir Hills. Each project will have combined programmes for small farmers, marginal farmers and landless labourers for rendering various assistance.

The applied nutrition programme has been extended to cover 22 blocks in the plains districts by the end of 1969-70. During 1970-71, one more block was brought under this programme. This programme has been initiated by the P & C. D. Department in four more blocks during 1971-72.

3.21 Land Reforms:— The State has initiated various land reform laws. Currently, the Assam Fixation of the Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1956 has been further amended by reducing the ceiling from 150 bighas to 75 bighas and a bill for a further reduction from 75 bighas to 50 bighas has been introduced in the Assam Assembly in 1972.

3.22 Irrigation :— The Jamuna irrigation scheme in Nowgong district was the first remarkable venture in irrigation. No major or medium irrigation project was taken up by the State till the end of the Second Plan. Two medium irrigation schemes—Jamuna and Sukla were taken up under the Third Plan—the first one was Commissioned in June, 1969 with an expectation of providing irrigation facilities to about 25,700 hectares of land and the work on the other project namely Sukla was in progress.

3.23 Minor irrigation includes projects for (a) flow irrigation by construction of bunds, dongs and diversion of channels from rivers and streams and (b) lift irrigation by installation of electrically energised pumpsets and tube wells. The execution of the minor irrigation projects is done mainly by the Panchayats, Agricultural department and Flood Control and Irrigation Department.

The jurisdictions of work have to be determined by fixing the Financial limitations of projects to be initiated by each organisation. While the Panchayats department could initiate only small and simpler type of flow scheme, the other two departments are to take up bigger schemes. The Agricultural department executes "Flow" schemes upto Rs. 5 lakhs and "Direct" lift "Shallow" tube wells and "Deep" tube wells scheme valued upto Rs. 25 lakhs each. Diesel pumpsets of 1.6 H. P. to 10 H. P. are provided to the farmers on cash or hire purchase basis through the Agro-Industries Development Corporation. With the extension of the transmission line under Rural Electrification Programme, the installation of electric pumpsets has been intensified.

4. FLOOD AND FLOOD CONTROL MEASURES

4.1. Almost every year Assam valley has been subjected to the fury of floods. Every year large areas are inundated and considerable tracts of riverine land are swallowed up by erosion. Flood and erosion together take a heavy loss in terms of life and property besides causing damage to growing crops.

4.2. Causes of Floods :— The main cause of flood and erosion in Assam may be said to be due to the topographical features and meteorological conditions prevailing in the State. The seven Assam-Valley districts are traversed by the mighty Brahmaputra and its tributaries and another district Cachar, by the Barak river and its tributaries. The Brahmaputra river is one of the biggest rivers of the world which has a total length of 2880 k.m. The Brahmaputra and Barak respectively have 35 and 9 tributaries each of which has considerable hill catchment areas. These rivers and tributaries are fed up by the heavy rainfall during the monsoon as a result of which there is excess volume of water causing water spilling over its banks and submerging the low areas. Some of the tributaries, especially the north bank tributaries of the Brahmaputra, keep on changing their courses due to steep slopes and heavy sediments.

4.3. The flood problem in Assam assumed increased dimension and greater intensity since the great earthquake of 1950 which caused extensive land slides in the north-eastern mountains and thereby silted up river-channels in the plains. Many places and important towns like Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Palasbari, Goalpara etc. were threatened as a result of extensive erosion.

4.4. The high growth rate of population as well as large scale migration into the State has led to the extension of habitation and cultivation to low lying areas which are vulnerable to floods. This is one of the causes of more extensive damages caused to property and crops by floods.

All the above factors have made the control of flood and erosion in the State more complicated and expensive.

4.5. Loss due to floods :— The extent of loss in terms of crops, cattle, properties etc. has been quite heavy in almost everytime of occurrence of floods in Assam. The average annual loss due to flood alone amounted to about Rs. 7 crores. 1954, 1962, 1966 and 1972 were the years of peak floods when the value of losses had amounted to approximately Rs. 16 crores, Rs. 23 crores and Rs. 25 crores respectively. About 6 lakh hectares of area are affected annually in average. There is also considerable loss due to bank erosion. Indirect losses which cannot be measured in terms of money are also very big. To relieve the victims of the ravages of floods, every year the Govt. has to spend considerable sums of money as grants and loans which causes heavy strain on the public exchequer and the administrative machinery of the Govt.

4.6. During 1972, flood situation caused havoc in the State. The total loss during the year was estimated at about Rs. 24.6 crores. It is quite significant to observe that the State faced both drought and floods during the same year. In this year Assam saw two successive waves of floods both in the Brahmaputra valley and in the Barak valley. The first wave visited in May/June and the second one in July/August. The extent of damage in the second wave of flood was much more greater than that of the first one. The value of damages caused by the second wave of flood was Rs. 17.3 crores as against Rs. 7.3 crores in the first wave. Nalbari, Tihu, Dibrugarh and Lakhimpur were the areas which mainly fell in the grip of floods causing extensive damages. The area of about 10,973 square kilometres covering about 7000 villages were affected and innundated as a result of flood during the year. The area affected during the previous year was 3,616 sq. km. The total cropped area damaged and popu-

lation affected in that year were 3784 sq. kilometres and 32 lakhs respectively. The estimated value of loss was very high in term of crops damaged which alone amounted to about Rs. 23 crores. The total value of cattle lost during the year was about Rs. 47 lakhs. Besides these, quite a large number of human lives were also lost signifying the gravity of the flood situation in the State.

4.7 Thus the 1972 floods shook the whole economy of the State to a great extent which can be noticed and compared from the following table showing the damages caused by floods during 1971 and 1972 :—

TABLE—4.1

Heads	1971	1972
(1)	(2)	(3)
1. Area affected (sq. km.)	3,616	10,973
2. Population affected (thousand)	674	3,233
3. Human life lost (Number)	1	90
4. Human life missing (Number)	...	26
5. Cattle lost (Number)	1,512	17,810
6. Value of crops damaged (lakh rupees)	472	2,325
7. Value of house properties damaged (lakh rupees)	15	61
8. Total damages to crops, cattle, houses, public institutions, etc. (lakh rupees)	494	2,462

4.8 The Government takes the responsibility of protecting the lives and properties of the people affected by floods and erosion. The amount sanctioned as loans and grants to the victims of floods and erosion in the State during the last few years are shown in the table below :—

TABLE—4.2

	(Rupees in thousand)						
	1962-63	1966-67	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1. Gratuitous relief	3,448	7,120	4,742	1,615	2,092	422	2,747
2. Test relief	1,616	3,265	2,312	3,103	2,458	5,937*	1,903
3. Rehabilitation loan/grant	1,821	1,289	3,389	386	972	624	3,942
4. Seed loan/grant	3,240	850	1,204	702	3,048	1,634	3,483
5. Cattle loan	349	1,248	1,790	944	648	500	1,266
6. Others	...	...	...	652	362	10	140
Total	10,474	13,772	13,437	7,402	9,580	9,147	13,481

*Due to severe drought preceding the flood in 1971, the test relief schemes which were sanctioned after the flood was over also included both the drought and flood affected areas.

4.9 Flood Control Measures :—Prior to 1950-51, flood control activities were extremely limited. As a matter of fact a real beginning in this direction was made since

the First Five Year Plan. Extensive protection works, construction of dykes and embankments had been done from that period.

4.10 A number of committees and experts examined the problems of flood and erosion in the State in the past. It has been realised that due to higher intensity of rainfall and fluvial nature of catchment and river courses as well as the State's falling in a highly earthquake region the problems are bigger and more complicated than those of any big river in the world.

4.11 As a measure of protection against floods, a large numbers of rivers of the State have been embanked. These are short term measures. Upto 1968-69, 3477 kms of flood dykes and 790 kms of drainage channels were constructed. About 7.52 lakh hectares of area was benefitted due to various flood control measures taken up in the State upto that period. To protect the big towns and strategic places from the clutches of erosion, anti-erosion measures like stone-spurs, timber spurs etc. are being taken up. These measures are confined to limited places only on account of very high costs involved. There is also a proposal to execute some dredging at selected places.

4.12 In the Fourth Plan, high priority has been accorded to flood control measure. As a step forward towards long-term flood ^{control} ~~control~~ measure, the Govern^wment of India has set up an organisation in the name and style of the Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission which is a three-tier organisation comprising (1) The Brahmaputra Flood Control Board, (2) The Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission and (3) The Board of Consultants. The Brahmaputra Flood Control Board in its first and second meeting held at Gauhati and Nowgong respectively approved a number of urgent schemes like retirement of Brahmaputra dykes from Desang-Mukh to Dikhow mukh, flood and erosion control in Pagladiya, Soalkuchi protection works, retirement of Brahmaputra dyke at Lohit and retirement of Kharmunji Fakirganj embankments etc.

With a view to materialising these schemes, the commission has already started functioning with effect from 24th July 1970. Treating the flood problem of Assam as a national problem the central Govt. has recently agreed to take over the flood control works of the Brahmaputra valley.

4.13. An amount of Rs. 24.39 crores has been provided for flood control works in the revised Fourth Plan outlay of the State. Out of this, Rs. 19.89 crores is meant for the Brahmaputra valley and Rs. 4.50 crores for the Barak Valley. During 1970-71 an amount of Rs. 6.80 crores including an amount of Rs. 1.70 crores, sanctioned by the Govt. of India by way of "Ways and means advance", were spent on various schemes to fight against flood and erosion in the State. During 1971-72, the amount allocated was Rs. 4.60 crores, the major portion of which was spent on raising and strengthening of existing dykes, new embankments and protection works. The allocation for 1972-73 was Rs. 5.24 crores of which Rs. 4.60 crores were meant for the Brahmaputra Valley and Rs. 0.64 crores for the Barak Valley.

5. FORESTRY

5.1 The total area under forests in Assam constitutes more than 35 percent of the total geographical area of the State as against 20.5 percent in the Country as a whole. The contribution of revenue from forestry during a period of two decades 1951-71 increased from Rs. 57 lakhs to Rs. 3,69 lakhs. Two fold classification of forests in Assam are (a) Reserved and (b) Unclassed State forests. Area under Reserved forests accounts for 55.5 percent of the total area under forests in the State. Concentration of forests is found mainly in the districts of Mikir Hills and N. C. Hills. Area under forests in Mikir Hills and N. C. Hills constitutes about 40.2 percent of the total area under forests in the State. About 81 thousand hectares of forest area has been utilised for the wild life sanctuaries.

5.2. The areas under the two main classes of forests in the years 1970-71 and 1971-72 in Assam are stated in the following table :—

TABLE—5.1

					(Area in thousand hectares)	
Class of forests					1970-71	1971-72
(1)					(2)	(3)
A. Reserved forests	...	...	...	...	1,566	1,534
B. Unclassed forests	...	...	...	...	1,229	1,229
C. Total forests (A + B)	...	...	...	...	2,795	2,763

The break up of area by different forest divisions at the end of 1971-72 is shown in the following table :—

TABLE—5.2

Area under Forest in Assam, 1971-72

					(in hectares)		
Forest division					Reserved Forest	Unclassed Forest	Total
(1)					(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Goalpara	...	...	...	...	17908	26403	44311
2. Dhubri	...	...	...	...	33595	8820	42415
3. Kachugaon	...	...	...	...	82432	400	82832
4. Haltugaon	...	...	...	...	101172	1248	102420
5. North Kamrup	...	...	...	...	69137	8000	77137
6. South Kamrup	...	...	...	...	63976	76126	140102
7. Western Assam Wild Life	...	...	...	...	38037	Nil	38037
8. Darrang	...	...	...	...	151647	50032	201679
9. Nowgong	...	...	...	...	95101	61470	156571

TABLE—5.2 Continued

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
10. Cachar	...	235298	32393	267691
11. Eastern Assam Wild Life	...	43254	Nil	43254
12. Sibsagar	...	147856	35381	183237
13. Dibrugarh	...	71447	89730	161177
14. Digboi	...	67878	34560	102438
15. Mikir Hills East	...	132364	388500	644122
16. Mikir Hills West	...	123258		
17. N. C. Hills	...	51028	416017	467045
18. Lakhimpur	...	9060	N. A.	9060
Total	...	1534448	1229080	2763528

5.3. Efficient utilisation of the enormous forest resource of Assam can change the economy of the State. Bamboo, soft wood, plywood timber etc. are abundant and can grow conveniently for sustaining a variety of Forest based industries. The major varieties are sal, hollock, hollong, teak, bonsom etc. Afforestation and conservation of the existing forests by replantation are being taken up by the State through various schemes. Recently, the Government of India has taken a keen interest in setting up some paper-cum-pulp mills in Assam for the utilisation of the bamboo resources of the State.

The outturns of timber and fuel from the forests of Assam during the years 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1970-71 are shown in the following table :—

TABLE—5.3

		In thousand cubic metre		
Products		1968-69	1969-70	1970-71(P)
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Timber	...	418	356	362
2. Fuel	...	422	250	163

Note :— (P) Provisional.

6. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT

6.1. The main objective of the Community Development movement is to usher a new era of development in the rural areas of the country. As in other parts of the country the Community Development programme was started in Assam in 1952. Since then the State has been covered by 130 blocks—the plains districts by 121 blocks and the two hills districts by 9 blocks. All the blocks in the hills districts and 8 blocks in the plains, situated in areas predominantly inhabited by the tribal people, were converted to Tribal Development Blocks (T.D.). At the end of 1971-72, 58 blocks were in stage-II, 55 blocks were in Post Stage-II and a total of 17 blocks were functioning as the Tribal Development Blocks. The district-wise distribution of the blocks of different stage at the end of 1971-72 is shown below :—

TABLE—6.1

Sl. No.	District	No. of position			Total
		Stage-II	Post Stage-II	T.D.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Goalpara	...	8	9	3	20
2. Kamrup	...	14	9	2	25
3. Darrang	...	6	6	1	13
4. Nowgong	...	6	7	...	13
5. Sibsagar	...	9	8	...	17
6. Dibrugarh	...	5	4	1	10
7. Lakhimpur	...	3	4	1	8
8. Cachar	...	7	8	...	15
9. Mikir Hills	7	7
10. North Cachar Hills	2	2
Total—Assam		58	55	17	130

6.2. The expenditure on different programmes (excluding special programmes) under the State sector amounted to Rs. 203.5 lakhs in 1971-72.

The item-wise expenditure on different Community Development Programmes during the years 1970-71 and 1971-72 is shown in the table given below :—

TABLE—6.2

		Rupees in lakhs	
Items		1970-71	1971-72
(1)		(2)	(3)
1. Block Head quarters	— — — —	133.0	133.7
2. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry	— — — —	17.0	22.7
3. Irrigation	— — — —	10.4	13.2
4. Reclamation	— — — —	3.4	2.2
5. Health and Rural Sanitation	— — — —	26.2	6.9
6. Education	— — — —	3.0	4.0
7. Social Education	— — — —	3.5	4.3
8. Communication	— — — —	9.6	11.8
9. Rural Arts, Crafts and Industries	— — — —	3.0	3.3
10. Housing	— — — —	2.9	1.4
Total	— — — —	212.0	203.5

6.3. Total Government expenditures under various special programmes in Community Development Blocks during the years 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 are shown in the following table :—

TABLE—6.3

		(Rupees in lakhs)		
Description of Programme		1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Applied Nutrition Programme	— — — —	9.86	8.16	7.69
2. Well Construction Programme	— — — —	2.42	2.00	1.95
3. Crash Nutrition Feeding Programme	— — — —	...	7.85	25.73
4. Pilot Research Project	— — — —	...	0.43	0.55
5. Crash Scheme for Rural Employment	— — — —	...	...	81.89
Total	— — — —	12.28	18.44	117.81

6.4. The progress of the Programme of development in different fields is indicated in the table given below :—

TABLE—6.4

Achievement under the Community Development Programme

Item		Unit	1970-71	1971-72
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Improved Seeds distributed	— — — —	Tonne	9,533	8,579
2. Fertilizers distributed	— — — —	Tonne	3,362	16,669
3. Agricultural demonstration held	— — — —	Number	4,589	4,721
4. Improved implement distributed	— — — —	"	3,548	4,282
5. Improved animals distributed	— — — —	"	812	496
6. Improved birds distributed	— — — —	"	10,246	21,258
7. Drinking Water Wells constructed and renovated	— — — —	"	2,242	2,176
8. Adult literacy centres started	— — — —	"	723	695
9. Adults male literate	— — — —	"	22,760	16,544
10. Land reclaimed	— — — —	Hectares	4,874	6,856
11. Area bunded and terraced	— — — —	"	160	...
12. Road constructed	— — — —	Kilometre	1,044	1,200

6.5. Panchayat :—The Panchayat Act, 1959 brought into existence a three-tier local Government for rural areas. At the top was the Mahkuma Parishad and at the bottom the Gaon Panchayat and in between the two there was the Anchalik Panchayat in every development block. Since the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on decentralisation in 1912, there has been a good deal of legislation on Panchayats. In Assam, there were as many as four enactments.

6.6. The three-tier system was not a new one in our country. It was tried in Madras, Bengal, Punjab and the united Provinces before 1937 without any fruitful results. In Assam also the experiments with Panchayat Raj had failed to produce the desired impact.

6.7. In order to effect a basic structural change in the activities of the Panchayat by replacing the old three-tier set up introduced by the Assam Panchayat Act, 1959 into a two-tier system with Mahkuma Parishads and Gaon Panchayats, the "Assam Panchayat Raj Bill, 1972" was introduced in the State Assembly in 1972 and enacted as the Assam Panchayat Raj Act, 1972.

1. Total population	2. Male population	3. Female population
1,00,00,000	50,00,000	50,00,000
(100%)	(50%)	(50%)
4. Total population	5. Male population	6. Female population
1,00,00,000	50,00,000	50,00,000
(100%)	(50%)	(50%)

7.2. The Co-operative movement in Assam made its beginning with the passing of the Co-operative Societies Act of 1904. The aim of the Act was to make provision for cheap credit to the agriculturists so as to relieve them of their burden of debts. But gradually the movement was felt for extending the scope of State Co-operative movement to the non-credit sphere also. It will be seen from the table 7.2 below that position in regard to the growth of Co-operative Societies in Assam is not satisfactory. The total number of Co-operative institutions

7. CO-OPERATION

7.1 Co-operation has a great role to play in the social and economic development of a country like ours. States like Maharashtra, Madhyapradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujrat etc. are making much headway in the process of co-operative movement in the country. But the progress made by Assam in this respect has been very slow. Assam accounts for only 1.8 p. c. of the total credit societies in India during 1970-71. In respect of membership and working capital also Assam's share is 0.94 p. c. and 0.93 p. c. respectively of the national total during the same period.

The following table shows the number of credit societies, membership and working capital of those credit societies operating in Assam (excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram) and some other States at the end of 1970-71.

TABLE—7.1

State	No. of societies	No. of members (in thousands)	Working capital (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1. Assam	3,261 (1.8)	428 (0.9)	4511 (0.9)
2. Maharashtra	23,418 (12.8)	62,98 (13.9)	11,71,43 (24.1)
3. Madhya Pradesh	10,602 (5.8)	26,83 (5.9)	3,37,18 (6.9)
4. Uttar Pradesh	27,224 (14.9)	62,91 (13.9)	4,06,61 (8.4)
5. Gujrat	9,886 (5.4)	29,54 (6.5)	5,53,13 (11.4)
6. India	1,82,460 (100.0)	4,53,32 (100.0)	48,68,59 (100.0)

Note:—Figures within brackets indicate percentage share of India's total.

7.2. The Co-operative movement in Assam made its beginning with the passing of the Co-operative Societies Act of 1904. The aim of the act was to make provision for cheap credit to the agriculturists so as to relieve them of their burden of debts. But gradually the need was felt for extending the scope of State Co-operative movement to the non-credit sphere also. It will be seen from the table 7.2 below that position in regard to the growth of Co-operative Societies in Assam is not satisfactory. The total number of Co-operative institutions

(both credit and non-credit) in the State (excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram) during 1970-71 stood at 6710 as against 7210 during 1969-70 (excluding the figure of Meghalaya but including those of Mizoram)

TABLE—7.2

The growth of Co-operative Societies in Assam
(All Societies)

Y E A R	No. of Societies	Membership (thousands)	Working capital (rupees in lakhs)	Share capital (rupees in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1970-71**	6,710	686	5,818	673
1969-70*	7,210	689	5,036	610
1968-69	7,738	696	5,029	574
1967-68	7,115	653	3,602	512
1966-67	7,310	588	2,924	424
1965-66	7,693	593	2,493	356
1960-61	8,894	511	1,602	232
1955-56	4,202	325	468	51
1950-51	2,929	287	196	47

** Excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram.

* Excluding Meghalaya but including Mizoram.

The table given below shows the break-up figure of different types of co-operative societies including co-operative banks in Assam during 1970-71.

TABLE—7.3

Year	Societies	No. of Societies	No. of members	Working capital (thousand)	Share capital (thousand)	Loans & Advances (in thousand Rs.)		Percentage of loans over due to loans out standing	
						Loans advanced	Loans out standing	Loans over due	Loans out standing
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1970-71	I Credit Societies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	(i) State Co-operative Bank	...	2,578	1,85,516	8,184	1,23,506	1,29,644	67,256	51.9 p.c.
	(ii) Central Co-operative Bank	7	4,316	1,08,735	11,675	42,304	75,126	69,140	92 p.c.
	(iii) Primary Credit Societies—								
	(a) Agricultural	2,876	3,83,036	84,055	10,905	20,755	62,905	49,752	79.1 p.c.
	(b) Non-Agricultural	360	28,707	62,321	3,593	51,533	41,812	10,649	25.5 p.c.
	(iv) Central Land Mortgage Bank	1	53	5,182	1,360	1,255	3,028	241	7.9 p.c.
	(v) Primary land Mortgage Bank	16	8,932	5,330	740	1,274	2,956	322	10.9 p.c.
	II Non-Credit societies	3,449	2,58,672	1,30,652	30,804	3,787	2,934	8,878	302.6 p.c.
	Grand Total	6,710	6,86,294	5,81,791	67,261	2,44,414	3,18,405	2,06,238	64.8 p.c.

Excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram.

7.3 The scope of activities of Co-operatives in the State is confined not in the field of credit alone as stated earlier, but also covers many other fields such as marketing, processing, farming, weaving, fishery, milk supply, housing, industries, supply of consumer goods etc. The Government is rendering all possible help in terms of finance, administration and other related matters for the growth of co-operative movement in the State. Recently the Govt. has decided that food supply should be done through the co-operatives vis-a-vis taking over of wholesale trade in wheat and paddy. If properly organised this might bring in a great incentives to the State Co-operative movement.

In the following paragraphs a brief review of the working of different types of co-operative societies in Assam during the last few years is given.

7.4. State Co-operative Bank :—The Assam Co-operative Apex Bank Ltd. had 2578 members at the end of 1970-71. The working capital increased from Rs. 16.91 crores in 1969-70 to Rs. 18.55 crores in 1970-71. Loans advanced by the Bank was Rs. 12.35 crores during 1970-71 as against Rs. 13.57 crores in 1969-70 and Rs. 21.21 crores in 1968-69. Besides the normal banking activities, it has taken initiative in various other co-operative activities such as linking up of various co-operative organisations together and financing of organisations like the Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society Ltd, the Assam Co-operative Sugar Mills, the Assam Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank, the wholesale co-operative consumer stores operating in different towns of the State, a number of tea gardens of the State etc. The Bank has made phased programme to open branches in urban and semi-urban areas of the State in order to expand its activities.

7.5. Central Co-operative Bank :—The number of Central Co-operative Banks functioning in the State was 7 in 1970-71. The membership of the Bank stood at 4316

in 1970-71 as against 4409 in 1969-70. The working capital increased from Rs. 7.36 crores in 1968-69 to Rs. 8.55 crores in 1969-70 and further to Rs. 10.87 crores in 1970-71. The bank advanced loans of the order of Rs. 423.04 lakhs during 1970-71 while loans outstanding and loans overdue were Rs. 751.26 lakhs and Rs. 691.40 lakhs respectively during the same period.

7.6. Primary Agricultural Credit Societies :—The number of Agricultural credit societies in Assam decreased from 5225 in 1960-61 to 3/64 in 1968-69. The number of societies excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram accounts to 3245 and 2876 during 1969-70 and 1970-71 respectively. This decreasing trend of the number of societies in Assam was the result of rationalisation of credit structure that was being effected through amalgamation of weak and uneconomic units with the strong and viable ones and liquidation of some dormant co-operative societies.

7.7. The total working capital of the primary agricultural credit societies stood at Rs.841 lakhs during 1970-71 as against Rs. 717 lakhs during the corresponding period of the previous year. In case of flow of credit, the trend was increasing upto 1968-69. It showed a decreasing trend during 1969-70 and a little rise during 1970-71. The amount of loans advanced during 1970-71 was Rs. 208 lakhs while it was Rs.177 lakhs during 1969-70.

7.8. The progress of Primary Agricultural credit societies in Assam is shown in the following table :—

TABLE—7.4

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	No. of societies	No. of Villages served	No. of Member (in thousand)	Deposits	Working capital	Loans advanced	Loan out-standing	Loan overdue	Percentage of overdue to loan outstanding
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1950-51	676	...	18	1	9	1	4	2	50 p. c.
1955-56	1973	...	43	2	38	31	32	5	15.6 p. c.
1960-61	5225	16896	267	4	270	42	199	147	73.8 p. c.
1965-66	4088	14055	327	21	195	39	142	126	88.7 p. c.
1966-67	3773	13991	320	26	338	266	240	150	62.5 p. c.
1967-68	3642	17204	379	34	500	255	388	232	59.8 p. c.
1968-69	3764	...	383	42	643	287	534	398	74.5 p. c.
*1969-70	3245	...	379	54	717	177	552	453	82.1 p. c.
*1970-71	2876	16038	383	52	841	208	629	498	79.2 p. c.

*Excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram

7.8. In respect of credit, it is noticed from the above table that Assam has a weak deposit base and alarmingly high over dues in relation to the outstanding loans. The deposits of Primary agricultural credit societies constituted only 6.2 p. c. of the working capital in 1970-71 which shows a very poor performance of these societies. In dispensation of credit, performance by these societies has been very stimulating but accumulations of loans overdue have seriously affected smooth channelisation of credit. A general lack of business management and deterioration of economic condition of borrowers who were affected by losses caused by flood and drought are some of the main reasons for mounting of loans overdues. Governmental action and persuasive measures have been made to minimise overdues. In order to provide larger flow of funds to the cultivators, credit has been made production-oriented instead of security-oriented and with this end in view crop-loan system of credit was introduced by some central Co-operative Banks. This crop-loan system will be extended to cover the entire area of the plains districts of Assam.

7.9 The growth and progress of primary Agricultural credit Societies of Assam in comparison with its counterpart in some other states may be observed from the following table :—

TABLE—7.5

Growth and Progress of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies at the end of June, 1971

	Assam	Andhra Pradesh	Gujarat	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Mysore	Punjab	Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
No. of Societies	2,876	15,040	8,438	2,134	9,884	20,014	8,675	10,274	6,058	25,922
Membership (in thousand)	383	22,60	13,30	16,95	20,81	31,36	17,87	14,38	32,80	55,27
Working Capital (in thousand of Rs.)	8,4055	60,51,86	132,65,20	65,04,21	114,72,98	226,66,93	77,45,77	76,43,41	85,94,92	124,91,40
P.C. of working Capital to the States to the of All India total	0.7 p.c.	5.2 p.c.	11.5 p.c.	5.6 p.c.	9.9 p.c.	19.7 p.c.	6.7 p.c.	6.6 p.c.	7.5 p.c.	10.8 p.c.

Assam is lagging behind the States like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu etc. in respect of number of societies, membership and working capital of Primary Agricultural credit societies. This can be justified from the above table. Maharashtra continues to occupy a prominent place in the co-operative movement of the country. The working capital of Primary Agricultural credit societies in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh accounted Rs. 226.67 crores and Rs. 124.91 crores respectively against Rs. 8.41 crores in Assam at the end of June, 1971. In respect of working capital, the share of Maharashtra in All-India totals was 19.7%, Uttarpradesh 10.8%, Gujrat 11.5%, Madhya Pradesh 9.9% while the share of Assam was very meagre i. e. 0.7% only.

7.10 Primary non-agricultural credit societies :—The Primary non-agricultural credit societies numbered 60 with a membership of 28,707 during 1970-71 as against 386 and 32,006 respectively in 1969-70. The working capital of these societies was Rs. 6.23 crores in 1970-71 as against Rs. 5.62 crores in 1969-70 and Rs. 5.12 crores in 1968-69. The loans granted by these societies during 1970-71 was Rs. 5.15 crores as against Rs. 4.32 crores in 1969-70 and Rs. 3.88 crores in 1968-69.

7.11 Land Development Banks :—There is only one Central Land Development Bank working in the State with a membership of 53. The working capital of Central Land Development bank amounted Rs. 51 lakhs in 1970-71 while it was Rs. 36 lakhs in 1969-70. The loans granted by the Bank was Rs. 12 lakhs in 1970-71 as against Rs. 10 lakhs in 1969-70, Rs. 3 lakhs in 1968-69 and Rs. 63 lakhs in 1967-68. The primary land development banks numbered 16 with a membership of 8932 in 1970-71. The working capital of Primary land development banks was Rs. 53 lakhs during the year as against Rs. 35 lakhs in 1969-70. The loans advanced by the banks was Rs. 12 lakhs during 1970-71 while it was Rs. 9 lakhs in the previous year.

7.12 The All-India Rural credit Review Committee (1969) observed that the requirements of agriculturists are so large and diverse that both commercial banks and co-operative banks can play a complementary role in the field of agricultural finance. It is the co-operative credit which will continue to be the main instrument for provision of farm credit. Proper channelisation of credit through progressive elimination of bottlenecks assumes great significance and this can be brought about by combined activities of Co-operative societies and commercial banks.

7.13 Non-Credit Societies :—The non-credit aspect of the Co-operative movement was assigned a wider range of activities which includes marketing, farming, network of consumer stores and processing societies. The main achievements in the field of non-credit aspect were the introduction of warehousing corporation, sugar Mills, Jute Mill, Rice Mills, cold storage plant, a few other processing societies, a number of primary Marketing Societies and consumer's stores.

7.14 The number of non-credit societies came down from 3554 in 1969-70 to 3449 in 1970-71. The membership of non-credit societies decreased from 264 thousand in 1969-70 to 259 thousand in 1970-71. The working capital of all non-credit societies increased from Rs. 8.04 crores in 1967-68 to Rs. 13.26 crores in 1968-69 which came down to Rs. 11.39 crores in 1969-70 and further increased to Rs. 13.07 crores in 1970-71.

7.15 Assam has lagged behind other States in the co-operative movement of the country mainly due to lack of organisational and managerial ability and alarmingly heavy overdues of loans in relation to outstanding loans. In order to remove the organisational and managerial weakness and to improve the qualities of co-operative societies, co-operative training was organised. Co-operative training was imparted to both official and non-official workers in the co-operative field. Recently a 28 day

co-operative Training class for the Secretaries and managers in Kamrup district was inaugurated for effective and proper functioning of Co-operative Societies. In order to minimise accumulation of overdues to outstanding loans and to provide capital formation in the State, loans should be granted on productive purposes so that cultivators may be in a position to repay loans from the income they derive from their increased productive capacity. This will help the societies to run smoothly and encourage capital formation in the State.

8. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

8.1. The development of transport and communication in a State like Assam is a must in view of the crucial and strategic position of the State. By virtue of its geographical situation, Assam serves as a gateway to its neighbouring States of Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura and the Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. But the transport and communication facilities existing in the State are not adequate to meet the growing demands from the entire north eastern region of the country and this fact stands as a major constraint in the development of this area.

8.2. Assam is served by all the modern means of transportation viz railway, roads, water-ways and airways. The position in regard to each of these means of transportation is discussed in the following paragraphs.

8.2.1. Railway :—Two railway lines—one broad gauge and one metre gauge of North East Frontier Railway—connect the State of Assam with the rest of the country which pass through a narrow corridor of 34 miles width in the North Bengal. The total railway route-length in the State during 1971-72 stood at 2108 kilometre of which 2006 kilometre falls in the metre gauge line and 102 kilometre in the broad-gauge line. The share of Assam in India's total railway route length cannot be said to be un-satisfactory in so far as metre gauge line is concerned. During 1969-70 Assam accounts for 7.78 p. c. of the total metre gauge railway route length of the country. But in the case of broad-gauge railway line it accounts for only 0.34 p. c. The State's metre gauge railway route length for every 100 sq. km. of area in 1970 was 2.5 km. which was much higher than the all India average of 0.8 km. On the other hand, the broad gauge railway route length of the State during the same year stood at 0.1 km. per 100 sq. km. of area which was much below the all India average of 0.9 km.

8.2.2. Railway transport system in Assam was given importance only after the Chinese aggression of 1962 and the Pakistani aggression of 1965 when the increasing needs for defence were felt heavily. Prior to 1965, there was only one metre gauge railway line connecting the State with the rest of the country. The only broad-gauge line in the state covering a length of 102 km. resulted due to the extension of broad-gauge railway line from New Jalpaiguri in North Bengal to Jogighopa in Assam during 1965.

8.2.3. During the last few years various measures were taken for the improvement of railways in Assam. This need was felt not only from the defence point of view but also from the point of view of backwardness of the State. Transport and communication constitute an important infrastructure for the development of backward areas. The need was also felt due to increase in trade and commerce of the State with the rest of the Country. Tea, jute and petroleum are the principal products served by railways in this region. The various measures which were taken up for the improvement of railway transport system in Assam include, besides the extension of broad-gauge line upto Jogighopa, dieselisation of trains on certain routes, placing of long distance express trains, increase in passenger coaches in trains, provision of special trains to carry tea from Assam upto Kandla port, the opening up of Farakka barrage during 1971 etc. The construction of Saraighat Bridge over Brahmaputra near Pandu and the extension of metregauge line from Rangapara North to North Lakhimpur and from North Lakhimpur to Murkongseila near the foot hills of Arunachal Pradesh during the early part of the last decade was a big boost to the transport and communication system in Assam. All these have greatly facilitated the movement of freight traffic to and from the North Eastern region.

8.2.4. "The Transport Needs of the Lower Brahmaputra Valley"—a survey conducted by the Gauhati University at the initiative of the Railway Ministry during

1969-70 emphasised the need for extension of railways in the State. The Government of Assam also made some suggestions and strongly pleaded with the Railway Ministry for the improvement of railway system in the State which included construction of railway line along South Bank from Pancharatna to Gauhati with a bridge over the Brahmaputra at Jogighopa, extension of broad-gauge railway line from New Bongaigaon to Gauhati via Rangiya and then to Dibrugarh connecting all district headquarters, establishment of a Railway Divisional Headquarters at Rangiya and improvement of the railway system in Cachar. The Railway Ministry have agreed to set up a Divisional Office at Rangiya and for that purpose the State Govt. have allotted lands to the Railway authority. The perspective plan of the Railways during the Fifth Five Year Plan is expected to include some of the suggestions mentioned above.

8.3. Roads:—The road system in Assam plays a vital role in her economy. From the point of view of strategy also the importance of a well developed road system in this region is highly felt. Moreover, inter-state traffic in the entire North Eastern Region is carried through the Assam roads, and thus Assam serves at the gateway to its neighbouring states and Union Territories.

8.3.1. During 1970-71, Assam (Excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram) had 17084 kilometres of roads (including the National High Ways) under the P. W. D. while the corresponding figure for the previous year had been 16367 kilometres. The total length of National High Ways in Assam stood at 1211 kilometres during 1970-71. Road length per 100 sq. km. and per lakh of population in Assam were 33 km. and 266 km respectively on March, 1969. The position is somewhat better when compared with the national figure which was 30 km. per 100 sq. km. and 180 km. per lakh of population during the same period. But the road system of Assam suffers from many deficiencies like sub-standard surface, narrow lane etc. which

require more attention to be paid. The following table shows the road mileage under public works Department (including National High Ways) in Assam during 1969-70 and 1970-71.

TABLE—8.1

Length of roads under P. W. D. in Assam (including National High Ways)
(in kilometres)

	Black topped	Metalled	Gravelled	Earth	Bridle	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1969-70						
(i) Plains	3184.37	33.32	10104.45	1787.62	5.67	15115.43
(ii) Hills	65.52	3.40	601.87	422.80	157.60	1251.19
(iii) Total	3249.89	36.72	10706.32	2210.42	163.27	16366.62
1970-71						
(i) Plains	3564.83	16.86	10260.20	1969.12	2.71	15813.72
(ii) Hills	117.29	0.65	608.48	386.68	157.60	1270.70
(iii) Total	3682.12	17.51	10868.68	2355.80	160.31	17084.42

8.32 Under the different Five year Plans special emphasis have been given for the development of roads in the State. Out of an allocated amount of Rs. 18.30 crores, Rs. 16.32 crores were spent on plan programmes during the First, Second and Third Plan together. During the three Ad-hoc Annual Plans an amount of Rs. 3.58 crores were spent for the purpose. The provision in the Fourth Plan amounted to Rs. ~~12.75~~^{13.47} crores for the plains districts and Rs. 10.55 crores for the hills districts of Assam. The target to be achieved during the plan period is taking up of 155 kms. of additional surfaced roads and improvement of 460 kms of gravelled roads in the plains districts and 375 kms of additional road length in the hills districts. An amount of Rs. 2.60 crores for the plains districts and Rs. 1.02 crores for the hills districts have been provided during 1972-73.

8.3.3. Road Transport :—Both the public and the private sectors are equally playing prominent role in road transport system of Assam. At present two public sector organisations viz. (i) The Assam and Meghalaya State Road Transport Corporations and (ii) The Central Road

Transport Corporation are operating in Assam. The former operates within the states of Assam and Meghalaya and the latter carries on inter-state operations.

8.3.4. The total nationalised route length during 1950-51 was 550 kilometres which rose to 3165 kilometres during 1970. The number of employees in the nationalised road transport was 4186 in 1970-71 as against 4184 in 1969-70. The number of vehicles of this organisation came down from 794 in 1969-70 to 656 in 1970-71. Another important event during 1970-71 was the conversion of the departmentally run State Transport Organisation in to the Assam State Road Transport Corporation which was further renamed as the Assam and Meghalaya State Transport Corporation due to the reorganisation of the State.

8.3.5 A total length of 529 kms. were nationalised during the first three years of the Fourth Plan. The total amount spent during the same period was of the order of Rs. 169.84 lakhs out of a total Fourth Plan outlay of Rs. 337.00 lakhs under the general plan. The target to be achieved during the Fourth Plan include nationalisation of 11 important new routes totalling 837 kilometres, construction of parking places etc. Amounts of Rs. 84.75 lakhs in 1971-72 and Rs. 85.00 lakhs in 1972-73 were provided for the corporation under Plan Head.

8.3.6 Road transport in Assam has been serving almost all the nook and corner of the State. In recent years there has been considerable increase in the number of motor vehicles on road in Assam. The number of different types of vehicles on road in the State including Meghalaya and Mizoram was 27,261 during 1965 which rose to 44,910 during 1969. During 1971, the total no. of different types of vehicles on road in Assam excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram stood at 43,869 as against 41,300 during the corresponding period of the previous Year. The following table shows the number of different types of motor vehicles on road in Assam during the past few years :—

TABLE—8.2

Class of vehicles	1965	1968	1969	1970	1971
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Motor cycle of Scooter	1427	2629	2990	3252	4003
2. Motor & Jeeps	8518	12840	14526	12778	13980
3. Taxi cab	407	581	612	575	739
4. Bus	1585	2265	2406	2320	2466
5. Private carrier	5414	6572	6643	6508	6263
6. Public carrier	2751	4932	5825	5697	5554
7. Trailer	2525	3790	3560	2892	2921
8. Tractor	1699	2389	2830	2816	3081
9. Govt. Vehicles (a)	2869	4005	5072	3898	4099
10. Auto Rickshaw	66	41	27	78	164
11. Others	N.A.	214	419	486(b)	599
Total	27,261	40,258	44,910	41,300	43,869

(a) Including Ambulances, (b) Including Local Bodies Vehicles.

Note :—The figure for the years 1970 and 1971 excludes those of Meghalaya and Mizoram.

8.4 Inland water Transport :—Assam has 4056 kms. of navigable water ways out of the all India waterways figure of 13,500 kms. Prior to Indo-Pakistani war in 1965, the inland waterways used to play prominent role in the transport system of the State. A considerable volume of traffic between Assam and Calcutta took place through inland waterways. About 93 percent of tea and 90 percent of jute grown and exported from Assam used to be carried by waterways. The Indo-Pakistani war in 1965 led to the closure of these waterways resulting a considerable pressure on railways and road transport system of the State.

8.4.1. The Directorate of Inland Water Transport was established during the Second Plan period to prepare schemes for the development of inland waterways in the State. The Directorate had undertaken the construction of two ports, one each at Pandu and Jogighopa, which would have modern cargo handling facilities. The Directorate also proposed to introduce passenger hovercraft service between Gauhati and Dibrugarh in the Brahmaputra. This scheme is expected to come into effect soon.

8.4.2. The deadlock in inland waterways caused by the Indo-Pakistani war in 1965 came to an end with the emergence of Bangladesh in the early part of 1972 which formerly formed part of Pakistan. The officials of the Govt. of India and Bangladesh met several times during

1972 to discuss the possibility of re-opening of the waterways between Assam and Calcutta via Bangladesh where an agreement was reached to open the route. Consequently, the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation, a Govt of India undertaking, started functioning in this route. The resumption of the river traffic between Assam and Calcutta via Bangladesh is expected to provide a big boost to the State's development efforts. It is estimated that the river-borne transit traffic between Calcutta and Assam would be of the order of 600,000 tonnes annually. The Corporation also conducted a survey in December 1971 to examine the navigability of the Brahmaputra from Gauhati to Calcutta and recommended that the route could be used with immediate effect. The Bhagabati Committee which had been set up by the Govt. of India also studied the water transport problems of the country and made some recommendations for the improvement of inland water transport system of the country with special reference to Assam.

8.4.3 The development programme of inland water transport is based mainly on the improvement of ferry services and introduction of commercial services besides maintenance of the river channel. As a result, few improved vessels built up by the local and indigeneous firms have already started operating in different ferry services of the State. During the Third Plan an amount of Rs. 5.64 lakhs was spent under water transport schemes. The amount spent during the three Ad-hoc Annual plans was Rs. 15.40 lakhs. During 1971-72 various schemes were taken up for improvement of inland water transport system of the State for which an amount of Rs. 18.60 lakhs was allocated for implementing these schemes. The schemes include expansion of crew training centre, hydrographic survey to investigate the feasibility of smooth-plying of inland water transport vessels, construction of approach roads to ghats, purchase and construction of ferry vessels etc.

8.5 Air Transport :—Besides roads, railways and inland water transport, another means of transport system in

Assam is air transport. The places served by Indian Airlines in Assam are Gauhati (Borjhar), Tezpur (Salonibari), Jorhat (Rowriah), Dibrugarh (Mohanbari), Lakhimpur (Lilabari) and Silchar (Kumbhirgram). There is regular air transport operations between Assam and Calcutta. The neighbouring states of Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh are also connected by air with Assam. The introduction of Boeing 737 service between Gauhati and Calcutta since October 1971 may be said to be a special feature of the development of air transport system in this region. The Central Ministry of Civil Aviation have also taken up certain measures for the improvement of air transport system in Assam like better terminal facilities, provision of strong radar system in some airports etc.

8.6 Postal and Tele-Communications:—There is a considerable increase in post, telegraph and tele-communication services in recent years in this region. The whole of the North Eastern India comprising Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh are served by the North Eastern Circle the headquarters of which is located at Shillong. During 1965-66, the circle had 2787 post offices which rose to 3386 in 1970-71 and further to 3494 in 1971-72. Similarly, the number of letter boxes also increased from 4097 in 1965-66 to 5287 in 1971-72. The distance over which mails were carried also increased from 23,072 kms. in 1965-66 to 27,449 kms. in 1971-72. The table given below shows some general statistics relating postal facilities in the Circle during the past few years.

TABLE—8.3

Period	Number of post offices	Number of letter boxes	Number of Rural Delivery staff
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1965-66	2787	4097	2253
1966-67	2847	4605	1760
1967-68	2988	4696	1736
1968-69	3112	4760	3463
1969-70	3241	4917	3558
1970-71	3386	5084	3694
1971-72	3494	5287	3838

8.6.1 During 1972-73 altogether 153 post offices were opened in the Circle, of which 83 in the State of Assam. Post offices upgraded from Branch offices to sub-offices were 9 including 4 in Assam during the same period. During 1973-74 there is a proposal to open 86 new post offices and upgrading of 25 Branch offices to Sub-offices in the State. The total number of ordinary Savings Bank Accounts in the circle during the period were 527,640 with a total deposits of Rs. 2773.2 lakhs. All post offices in the district of Kamrup and Goalpara have been vested with Savings Bank powers.

8.6.2 For speedier transmission of mails, the system of PIN code i.e., Postal Index Number have been introduced all over India since 15th August 1972. In Assam, the system have already gone into operation. The introduction of direct dialing of telephones between Gauhati and Shillong and Demand Trunk service between Gauhati and Culcutta during the latter part of 1971 may be noted as a mark of improvement in the tele-communication services in the State. The microwave system has already been commissioned at Dibrugarh and Tinsukia during 1972 and the (i) Shillong-Silchar and (ii) Jorhat-Dimapur-Kohima-Imphal lines are likely to be commissioned with microwave system during 1973-74.

8.6.3 There are 195 long distance public call offices in the circle during 1972-73. Seven new Telephone Exchanges were opened during the period. The total number of Exchanges in the Circle stood at 171 on 31st March, 1973. Altogether 22510 telephone connections were working in the Circle upto 31st March 1973 of which 2904 connections were provided during 1972-73. During 1973-74, 30 new exchanges (totalling 1400 lines) are expected to be opened while 31 existing exchanges are likely to be expanded with a provision of 1800 new lines.

9. POWER

9.1 Assam is endowed with vast power potential. It enjoys the unique advantage of using water, natural gas, oil and coal for generation of powers. Yet, the State lags behind most other States in respect of installed capacity as well as percapita consumption of power. In 1970-71 Assam accounted for only 1.2 percent of the total installed capacity of the country as a whole ; the per capita consumption of electricity in the same year was as low as 18.1 KWH as against 80.1 KWH for the country.

9.2 Compared to the insignificant base of installed capacity of 3 MW at the beginning of the First Five Year Plan the growth of installed capacity to 171 MW in 1971-72 is nodoubt quite significant. The completion of a few other projects like the Gauhati Thermal Project, Namrup Thermal Extension and Uiam Hydro Electric (stage II) will step up the capacity to nearly 238 MW. It may be noted that generation of electricity in Assam rose from 359.5 million KWH in 1970-71 to 417.6 million KWH in 1971-72 or by 16.2 percent.

9.3 Hydro Electric Projects in the State are of recent origin. Prior to the installation of Umtru Hydro Electric Project in the year 1957 Assam's power projects consisted of thermal and diesel generation of power. The existing power projects are (i) Umtru Hydro Electric Project with the installed capacity of 11.2 MW (ii) Uiam Hydro Electric Project—(a) Stage I with installed capacity of 36.0 MW, (b) Stage II with installed capacity of 18.0 MW, (iii) Namrup Gas Thermal Project with the installed capacity of 69.0 MW, and (iv) The Gauhati Gas Turbine Project with 12.5 MW (later shifted to Namrup). Among the other important projects recently undertaken by the State Electricity Board, Thermal Power Station at Chandrapur was commissioned on trial basis in March 1973 and with the commissioning of this project, the pressure of

Umiam Hydel system will be relieved to a great extent. The State Electricity Board has been distributing power to all corners of the State through the installation of long transmission lines. The work on 220 KV Gauhati-Nowgong transmission line for the supply of power from Umtru-Umiam Grid is in final stage.

9.4 Consumption of Electric power :—Consumption of electric power during 1970-71 registered an increase of 16.9 percent from 288.5 million KWH to 337.2 Million KWH in 1971-72. The pattern of consumption of electric power has undergone significant changes in recent years. The industrial consumption of power accounted for 59.0 percent of the total electric energy consumed during the year 1971-72. The power generation (public utilities only) in Assam (including Meghalaya and Mizo) over the past few years can be seen from the following table :—

TABLE—9.1
Generation of Electricity.

(In million KWH)				
Year	Gas	Diesel	Hydro	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1960-61	...	14.7 (44.5)	18.3 (55.5)	33.0 (100.0)
1965	...	27.8 (39.9)	41.8 (60.1)	69.6 (100.0)
1967-68	63.3 (40.2)	19.3 (12.3)	74.7 (47.5)	157.3 (100.0)
1968-69	101.9 (47.2)	12.4 (5.7)	101.7 (47.1)	216.0 (100.0)
1969-70	169.0 (54.9)	14.0 (4.5)	125.1 (40.6)	308.1 (100.0)
1970-71	194.2 (54.0)	11.2 (3.1)	154.1 (42.9)	359.5 (100.0)
1971-72	219.8 (52.6)	8.8 (2.1)	189.0 (45.3)	417.6 (100)

(N. B.—Figures within brackets indicate percentages.)

9.5 As regards the pattern of utilisation of electricity, Industrial-sector accounts for the major portion of the total consumption. The pattern of consumption for the last few years is shown below :—

TABLE—9.2
Consumption of Electricity.

(In million KWH)						
	1960-61	1965-66	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Domestic heat and small power.	9.9 (34.0)	23.6 (33.2)	23.9 (13.5)	29.4 (11.8)	31.9 (11.0)	37.5 (11.1)
2. Domestic light and fans.						
3. Commercial heat and power.	4.2 (14.4)	9.3 (13.1)	3.9 (2.2)	5.2 (2.1)	6.0 (2.1)	7.5 (2.2)
4. Commercial light and fans.						
5. Industrial power	11.8 (40.6)	33.6 (47.3)	103.7 (58.8)	160.7 (64.4)	154.6 (53.6)	199.0 (59.0)
6. Public Lighting and water works.	3.2 (11.0)	4.4 (6.2)	7.3 (4.1)	7.2 (2.9)	8.0 (2.8)	8.7 (2.6)
7. Irrigation.	...	...	0.4 (0.2)	0.3 (0.1)	0.3 (0.1)	0.5 (0.1)
8. Other power including bulk supply to other concern including Railways, etc.	...	0.1 (0.2)	37.3 (21.1)	46.8 (18.7)	87.9 (30.4)	84.0 (25.0)
Total	29.1 (100.0)	71.0 (100.0)	176.5 (100.0)	249.6 (100.0)	288.5 (100.0)	337.2 (100.0)

(Figures within brackets indicate percentage)

9.6 Rural Electrification :—The Progress of rural electrification in Assam has been far from being satisfactory in comparison with 100 percent electrification of villages in Haryana, 78 percent in Tamil Nadu, the number of villages electrified in Assam was only 992 as on 28th February, 1973. The number of villages electrified by the Rural Electrification Corporation during 1971-72 ^{and 1972-73} were 9 and 10 respectively. More than 350 villages are expected to be electrified during ~~1972-73, 1973-74.~~

9.7 Government have accelerated the rural electrification programme in recent years. Extensive net work of transmission lines to carry power to remotest corners of the state have been laid. Rural electrification will add to the welfare of village homes and will ultimately lead to a new awakening towards the development of small scale and cottage industries in the rural areas. A committee on rural electrification was constituted in pursuance of a recommendation made by the Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Irrigation and Power Ministry in 1968. The Committee suggested several measures for

accelerating rural electrification in nine States where achievement was below all-India average. These States were—Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

9.8 In addition to the supply of power to Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, Assam State Electricity Board has been supplying power to Nagaland and Tripura; erection of transmission lines (132 KV) for supply of power to North Bengal is in progress. With the increase in demand for consumption of power in the State and demand from outside the State, a shortage of power will arise in the State. The shortfall for the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram is expected to rise to the extent of 65 MW by the end of the Fifth Plan.

9.9 With a view to meeting the growing demand for power and to bridge the gap between the demand and supply, the Assam State Electricity Board has undertaken construction works on some new projects like Stage III of Uiam Hydel Project with an installed capacity of 60 MW and extension of Namrup Thermal Station.

10. INDUSTRY AND MINING

10.1 The position of Assam in the industrial map of India is not very encouraging. This can be judged from the fact that Assam's share in the country's net product from manufacturing industries accounts for 3.1 percent only during 1960-61 which came down to 2.4 percent during 1965-66 and further to 2.2 percent in 1969-70. Though Assam possesses enormous potentialities for setting up of various industries based on locally available resources, due to non-utilization and under-utilization of these resources, it has remained far behind other states of the country in the sphere of industrial development. Assam's backwardness in the process of industrial development may be attributed mainly to the following factors: shyness of capital, lack of adequate communication facilities, lack of adequate banking facilities, lack of cheap power, dearth of technically qualified personnel and local entrepreneurial ability etc.

10.2 Prior to independence little attention was given for the development of industry in the State. Investments were limited to a very few industries and other sectors were utterly neglected. After the initiation of the national planning in 1951, the process of industrial development of the country may be said to have started. But in Assam this process of industrial development was started only towards the later part of the Second Plan. During the Third Plan period many industries, both in the public and private sectors, came up as a result of the more ambitious plan programmes undertaken during the period. These include small or medium projects like a bicycle factory, a spun silk mill, two cotton spinning mills, some re-rolling and fabrication units, a mixed fertilizer plant, a hardboard factory, a Jax Board factory, a sugar mill (a co-operative enterprise), a fruit processing plant, a gas distribution project (The Assam Gas Company), the Assam Carbon Ltd. etc. and two major projects, viz. the Noonmati Refinery and the Namrup Fertilizer plant.

10.3 The Fourth Plan of Assam reiterates the need for rapid industrialization of the State in order to break away from the present economic stagnation. During the Fourth Plan Period the pace of industrialization is expected to be accelerated with the introduction of a number of resource based industries mostly in public sector as discussed in the following paragraphs.

10.3.1 INDUSTRIES BASED ON OIL AND NATURAL GAS:—The foundation stone of the Oil refinery-cum-petro-chemical complex at Bongaigaon was laid on the 19th January, 1972 by the Prime Minister. This Project will be India's eleventh refinery and third in Assam and will cost Rs.81.10 crores including a foreign exchange component of the order of Rs.24.37 crores. The capacity of the refinery will be one million tonne per annum. The products of the refinery-cum-petro-chemical complex along with their annual producing capacity will be as follows:—

TABLE—10.1

Item	Licensed capacity (tonne)	
	Tonne	
(i) Catalytic	80,000	..
ii) Xylene	10,500	..
(iii) Para-Xylene crystallisation	18,700	..
iv) DMT	3,44,000	..
(v) Polyester staple fibre	30,000	..

It is expected that the refinery will go on steam by 1975. There is no doubt that with the completion of the entire project a new era in the industrial development of Assam will begin.

10.3.2 The construction work of the Rs.7.9 crores petro-chemical project at Namrup, which is a Govt. of Assam undertaking, is in progress and is expected to start production in 1975. An agreement has been signed by the Assam Govt. with a Japanese firm for the construction of the project. The foreign exchange component of the project will be of the order of Rs.2.45 crores. The items which are to be manufactured in the project and their licensed capacities are shown in the following table:—

TABLE—10.2

Item	Licensed capacity (tonnes)	
	Tonne	
Methanol	7,000	..
Formalin	12,000	..
Non-concentrated glue... ..	12,000	..
Urea formaldehyde moulding powder	1,000	..
U. F. glue	12,000	..
PVC Processed goods	6,000	..

The special feature of the project is that it will be based on natural gas available from the oil fields of Moran and Lakua in the district of Sibsagar.

10.3.3 The Assam Gas Company which is a Assam Govt. sponsored organisation, has already started production and distribution of gas for domestic and commercial purposes. The company is using raw-materials of Naharkatiya and Moran fields which are estimated to produce 74 million cft. of gas per day at an uniform rate for the next 20 years. During 1972, a sum of Rs.72 lakhs has been earmarked for the Assam Gas Company to expand the activities by installing two more compressors.

10.3.4 INDUSTRIES BASED ON LIMESTONE, CLAY AND OTHER MINERALS : With the availability of limestone in the district of Mikir Hills and for utilizing the natural gas of Naharkatiya field, the first cement factory in re-organised Assam has been located at Bokajan. The project is being constructed by the Cement Corporation of India and is expected to produce 600 tonnes of cement per day.

10.3.5 Recently a glass factory has been set up at Gauhati in the private sector which will annually produce 4 tonnes of hollow wares such as glass tumbler, lamp chimneys, bottle, etc.

10.3.6 The Assam Industrial Development Corporation has received a license for setting up a caustic soda and chlorine plant at Jogighopa. The caustic soda plant will be built in collaboration with West Germany and this will be an integrated plant with the Ashok Paper Mill under construction at Jogighopa,

10.3.7 FOREST BASED INDUSTRIES:—Assam is abound with various forest resources which can be utilized for setting up various forest based industries. Assam possesses the largest bamboo and reed reserves and ample hard Wood resources like sal, teak, bonsum etc,

10.3.8 With a view to utilising the bamboo resources, the State Govt. has taken steps for the setting up of a few paper-cum-pulp mills in the State. The construction work of the Ashok Paper Mill at Jogighopa in the district of Goalpara has been already started. The capacity of the mill will be 120 tonnes of pulp and 90 tonnes of paper daily. The cost of the Project has been estimated at Rs.15 crores. Other two public sector paper mills one each in the districts of Nowgong

and Cachar, will be set up by the Hindustan Paper Mills Ltd., a Govt. of India undertaking. The mill proposed to be set up in the district of Cachar will have a capacity to turn out 150 tonnes of paper annually with a provision for doubling the capacity. The other paper mill to be set up in the district of Nowgong will have a capacity to produce 80,000 tonnes of paper and pulp per annum. The mill is expected to go into production by 1975-76.

10.3.9 INDUSTRIES BASED ON AGRICULTURE:—

Assam produces about 20 per cent of the country's total jute production. The area and production of jute have been increasing year by year. At present there is one jute mill (in co-operative sector) at Silghat in the district of Nowgong. The Silghat Jute Mill produced 729 tonnes of various jute goods during 1971-72. The Assam Govt. proposed to set up three more jute mills in the State but the Govt. of India has issued license for establishment of only one.

10.3.10 Sugarcane is mainly grown in the plains districts and is fairly concentrated in the districts of Sibsagar and Kamrup. There is only one sugar mill operating in the State at Dergaon. This is a co-operative venture. The crushing capacity of the mill is about 800 maunds of cane per day. The foundation Stone of another Sugar mill in the Cachar district was laid in December, 1971 which will have a crushing capacity of 1250 tonnes of cane per day.

10.3.11 Recently, the Govt. of Assam has decided to set up six sugar mills under a public sector corporation, one in each district, during the Fifth Five Year Plan Period, in addition to the existing one at Dergaon and the proposed mill in the Cachar district. The Govt. has also decided to set up a separate corporation for cane growers to feed the mills. Each of the mills will have sugarcane cultivation of its own on a 4,000 acres of land. In addition, people would be given advances to grow sugarcane to be supplied to the mills.

10.3.12 The main cotton growing areas in Assam are Mikir Hills and Goalpara districts. All the cotton produced in the State are mostly exported to other States. It has been revealed that short staple Assam cotton may be used for spinning rough yarn for the handloom industry and cotton blankets and there also exists a good market for these products in Assam. The textile unit of the Associated Industries Ltd. which had to be closed due to mis-

management was taken over by the National Textile Corporation of India; it started production in 1972 with 11,000 spindles employing about 450 persons.

10.3.13 Tea Industry:— Tea plays a vital role in the economy of Assam. It is also a major foreign exchange earner of the country. The number of tea estates in Assam during 1969 was 758 and it came down to 751 in 1970 but the area under tea increased from 179,417 hectares during 1969 to 180,065 hectares during 1970. The production of tea has been estimated at 239.98 million kilogram during 1972 as against 225.19 million kilogram during 1971 thereby showing an increase of 6.56 percent over the year.

10.3.14 The Assam Tea Corporation was set up in 1971 to look after the sick tea gardens of Assam. The Corporation has already taken over three tea gardens during 1972. and negotiations are going on to acquire few more tea gardens in the State during the current year.

10.3.15 Another significant development of the tea industry in Assam is the commissioning of the Tea Auction Centre at Gauhati in September, 1970 under the initiative of the Govt. of Assam. The centre had a good start at the beginning but its sale performance during 1972-73 was not satisfactory as compared with the performance during 1971-72. The total quantity of tea sold in the centre during 1972-73 (end January) was 17,041 tonnes as against 18,654 tonnes during 1971-72 (end January) and thereby showing a decrease of 9.46 percent over the previous year. The performance of the Gauhati Tea Auction Centre during 1971-72 and 1972-73 may be noted from the table given below:—

TABLE—10.3.

Sale of Tea at the Gauhati Tea Auction Centre

District (1)	(To the end of January)		(Figures in tonnes)			
	Leaf		Dust		Total	
	1972-73 (2)	1971-72 (3)	1972-73 (4)	1971-72 (5)	1972-73 (6)	1971-72 (7)
Assam ...	7,996	8,009	7,334	6,939	15,330	14,944
Cachar ...	855	1,076	387	566	1,242	1,642
Darjeeling ...	7	12	1	25	8	37
Dooars ...	360	1,025	71	665	431	1,690
Terai ...	6	245	...	52	6	297
Tripura ...	21	39	3	5	24	44
Total ...	9,245	10,406	7,796	8,248	17,041	18,654

Though the performance of tea sales during 1972-73 is not satisfactory, it is expected that with the participation of few more foreign dealers in the centre the position will

improve considerably in the subsequent years and will give a boost to the tea industry of Assam.

10.4 In the following paragraphs a broad review of the industrial position of the state has been given.

10.4.1 REGISTERED FACTORIES :— The number of registered factories in Assam (excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram) during 1971 was 1599 giving employment to 75,387 persons. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 1604 and 75,688 respectively (excluding Meghalaya only).

10.4.2 ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIES :— The Annual Survey of Industries conducted jointly by the Govt. of India and the Department of Economics and Statistics, Assam, covers all factories registered under Factories Act, 1948. In the following table the coverage, capital and persons employed in the industries, salaries and wages paid to the workers, value added by the manufacture in Assam for the years 1960 to 1968 are given.

TABLE—10.4

Item (1)	Assam (Excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram)					
	1960 (2)	1961 (3)	1965 (4)	1966 (5)	1967 (6)	1968 (P) (7)
(1) Number of factories registered	1193	1275	1429	1478	1439	1539
(2) Number of factories submitting returns.	1083	1102	1159	1252	1221	1113
(3) Number of persons employed (000)	81.9	78.2	82.4	86.7	78.8	80.2
(4) Productive capital employed (Rs. million).	772.0	920.0	997.3	1236.6	1089.3	1461.3
(5) Salaries, wages and benefits (Rs. million).	94.3	91.7	137.2	170.2	147.8	147.9
(6) Value added by manufacture (Rs. million).	280.3	315.8	243.5	379.3	257.7	299.4
(7) Capital employed per person engaged (Rs.)	9425	11,758	12,103	14,269	13,824	18,227
(8) Wages and salaries per person engaged (Rs.)	1157	1172	1665	1971	1876	1845
(9) Value added by manufacture per person engaged (Rs.)	3421	4036	2955	4377	3271	3734
(10) Value added by manufacture per rupee of capital employed (Rs.)	0.36	0.34	0.24	0.31	0.24	0.20

(P)=Provisional

NOTE:—The figures for the year 1960 and 1961 relate to Assam including Meghalaya and Mizoram and those from 1965 to 1968 relate to present Assam after reorganisation.

The trends of production of certain selected industries in Assam from 1961 to 1972 may be had from the following table :—

TABLE—10.5

(Production of selected Industries in Assam.)									
Item	Unit	1961	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1. Tea ...	Million K.G.	183	189	190	202.6	203.2	215.2	225.2	240.0
2. Sugar ...	"	6.3	9.0	6.5	4.0	5.0	10.4	7.5	N.A.
(1960-61) (1965-66) (1966-67) (1967-68) (1968-69) (1969-70) (1970-71)									
3. Cement ...	'000 (tonnes)	...	12.1	37.5	54.6	69.4	54.9	74.4	N.A.
4. Match ...	Million	3.1	3.3	3.2	4.0	5.1	5.4	5.2	3.3
	Gross boxes.							(upto Aug.)	
5. Fertilizer...	'000 tonnes.	...	...	...	...	92	88	89	79
								(upto Aug.)	
6. Electricity	Million ...	32.97	107.63	142.60	215.98	308.10	359.45	417.6	N.A.
	Kwh				(1968-69)	(1969-70)	(1970-71)	(1971-72)	
7. Commercial	Million ...	2.22	5.80	5.00	6.77	3.41	3.46	3.45	4.0
Plywood	sq. metre							(Upto Aug)	

N. A. = Not available.

10.4.3 It has already been stated earlier that Assam is a backward State in the sphere of industrial development. The following table shows a comparative picture of total factories at work, fixed capital, invested capital working capital, persons engaged and value added by manufacture in the factories sector between Assam and a few other States obtained from the A.S.I., 1967.

TABLE 10.6
Annual Survey of Industries, 1967

Item	Assam*	Bihar	West Bengal	Maharashtra	Gujrat	India.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Total factories (No.)	1351	2112	5758	9004	4902	50717
2. Fixed capital (Rs. crores)	133.52	561.99	1031.34	939.39	435.36	6449.46
3. Working Capital (Rs. crores)	54.24	184.96	476.23	491.34	133.33	2353.59
4. Invested capital (Rs. crores)	202.15	769.15	1629.35	1621.84	673.28	9577.91
5. No. of persons employed (000)	90.85	238.85	907.81	887.11	413.03	4716.20
6. Value added by manufacture (Rs. crores)	29.38	130.62	374.89	552.26	198.36	2113.40
7. Value added by manufacture per rupee of invested capital (Rs.)	0.14	0.17	0.23	0.34	0.29	0.22

* Including Meghalaya and Mizoram.

Note :—The figure for Assam do not tally with those given in table 10.4 (col 6) due to difference in territory and coverage of factories

10.4.4 Small Industries (not registered under factories Act). :— According to a survey conducted in 1969 by the Department of Economics and Statistics, the number of small industrial units not registered under the Factories Act, 1948, and employing 5 or more persons in the urban

areas of Assam was 1051 and these industrial units had given employments to more than 8 thousand persons. The same survey revealed that the number of small industrial units employing less than 5 persons was 6146 with a total employment of 13 thousand persons.

10.4.5 Silk, cotton-textile, wooden furniture, bell-metal, motor-vehicles repairing, bakery, Saw milling etc. are the main industries in the small industry sector in Assam. It can hardly be denied that economic upliftment of the mass people are possible only through the development of small industries in the State. Moreover, the development of small industries are required not only for mobilisation of local resources but also for creating adequate employment opportunities. The following table shows the district wise number of small industries units in some of the important industry groups at the end of 1969.

TABLE 10-7

Number of small industrial units in important industry groups at the end of 1969

District	Cotton textile	Silk	Bakery	Wood-en furniture	Letter press	Biri	Saw milling	Soap	Steel trunks	Welding	Bell-metal	Motor vehicles repairing
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Goalpara	2	—	8	5	10	17	4	2	9	3	—	11
2. Kamrup	10	331	24	25	37	2	1	3	4	3	37	36
3. Darrang	—	—	6	8	6	—	4	4	2	4	2	1
4. Lakhimpur	—	—	7	21	16	—	3	1	6	8	3	37
5. Dibrugarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Sibsagar	—	—	6	10	11	—	1	1	2	1	1	16
7. Nowgong	2	—	11	6	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	9
8. Cachar	9	—	18	6	15	1	3	9	5	2	—	12
9. Mikir Hills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. N.C. Hills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	23	331	80	81	100	20	17	20	28	21	43	122

10.4.6 During 1971-72, the second phase of the small industries survey in the state was conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics. Some of the important findings (provisional) of the survey is given in the following table :—

TABLE 10-8
Reference year 1971-72

District	Total No. of units	No. of reporting units	No. of persons employed	No. of persons per units	Fixed capital (Rs. '000)	Gross output (Rs. '000)	Gross input (Rs. '000)	Value added (Rs. '000)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Goalpara	104	100	686	7	1,997	4,958	3,661	380
Darrang	40	29	262	9	858	2,141	1,332	553
Kamrup	571	531	3,519	7	7,010	14,412	9,676	3,899

TABLE 10·8—contd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nowgong	43	36	323	9	624	2,977	1,399	1,441
Sibsagar	56	45	670	15	1,286	966	917	(-)332
Lakhimpur	14	11	104	9	347	320	127	33
Dibrugarh	113	84	561	7	1,631	4,212	3,649	364
Cachar	110	88	621	7	2,008	7,215	4,950	1,823
Assam	1,051	924	6,745	7	15,761	37,101	25,711	8,161

10·4·7 The State Govt., under the Fourth Five Year Plan have laid much stress for the development of small industries in the State. The amount allocated for the plains districts during 1971-72 and 1972-73 were Rs. 32·25 lakhs and Rs. 48·50 lakhs respectively, the corresponding figures for the hills districts are Rs. 13·50 lakhs and Rs. 11·20 lakhs. Two organisations—The Small Industries Development Corporation and The Assam Govt. Marketing Corporation are engaged in the development of small industries in the State. The State Govt. have share capital participation in these two organisations. To overcome the financial difficulties of the local entrepreneurs the Credit Guarantee Scheme have been introduced. The State Directorate of Industries and The Assam Financial Corporation provide loans for setting up of small industries in the State. The Government is also providing suitable accomodation and sites through the establishment of Industrial Estates in various Towns of the State which provide factory sheds with power, road and communication facilities. At present, 6 Industrial Estates, one each at Gauhati, Nalbari, Dhekiajuli, Badarpur, Tinsukia and Jorhat are functioning while two more Industrial Estates, one each at Sibsagar and Nowgong are expected to be completed soon.

10·5 Sericulture and Weaving :—Another important sector which play a very prominent role in the upliftment of the economic life of the rural population is sericulture and weaving. Almost every house-hold in the rural areas of Assam are connected with this industry, specially with the weaving industry.

10·5·1 The age-old skills of the people in the field of sericulture and weaving are being encouraged by the Govt. The Department of Sericulture and Weaving is engaged in promoting this industry in a systematic way and with this end in view a number of sericulture farms in the State has been set up. It has also been proposed to encourage the production of Eri and Muga silk with a

view to producing blended yarn with synthetic fibre to be produced at the petro-chemical complex at Bongai-gaon which is under construction. In order to provide adequate facilities for marketing of the products and also a fair return to the producers, cocoon marketing and silk co-operative societies were organised. Assam Spun Silk Mill at Jagiroad is fed up by cocoons of these co-operatives.

10.5.2 As a measure to control cotton yarn prices in Assam, the State Government has taken over the wholesale trade in yarn. It will now be sold to consumers through the Assam Govt. Marketing Corporation at fixed prices.

10.5.3 The annual production of eri-silk in the state is about 1,20,000 K.G. which provide subsidiary income to about 1,00,000 persons. The supply of cotton yarn is also not adequate compared to the demand in the market and, therefore, the centre has been approached to allot more cotton yarn for the State.

10.5.4 During the Fourth Five Year Plan, emphasis was stressed on the need for increasing the production of seed cocoons, bringing about improvement in the quality of yarn, providing better facilities for training, reasearch and marketing. The programme in the Fourth Plan includes setting up of one more seed grainage, expansion of existing grainages and establishment of one parent stock Station. The programme also includes subsidized supply of improved spinning machines and provision of working capital to the spinners. The proposed outlay during the Fourth Plan on all schemes under this head is Rs.29.31 lakhs.

10.5.5 Another important feature of the Silk trade is that spun silk yarn produced in the Assam Spun Silk Mill at Jagiroad has been exported to Japan for the first time in 1972. This is really encouraging that this product of the State found a place in the world market.

10.5.6 A new development in the sericulture field is the increased attention being given to the production of Tasar Silk in the districts of Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills. The Development of Tasar Silk will be a boon to the inhabitants of these backward districts.

10.6 **Mining** :—Assam is rich in mineral resources such as petroleum, natural gas, coal, limestone, clay and other minerals. But the rate of exploitation has been

very slow compared to the reserves. A number of agencies like Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Oil India Ltd., Geological Survey of India and the State Department of Geology and Mining are engaged in exploring mineral wealth of the State.

10.6.1 The contribution of mining towards State income of Assam has been steadily rising. During 1970-71 contribution of mining accounted for 4.0 percent of the State income which rose to 4.7 percent during 1971-72. The contribution is expected to increase further in the subsequent years with the exploration of more mineral resources in the State.

10.6.2 In respect of crude oil production Assam holds an important position in the country. The total production of crude oil during 1971-72 was 3542 thousand tonnes which accounts for 49.3% of the total crude oil production in the country.

10.6.3 In respect of production of natural gas also the position is almost same as in the case of crude oil production. The estimated proved reserve of natural gas in the fields of Naharkatiya and Moran is placed at 7,90,000 million cubic feet. The Namrup Fertilizer Plant and the Namrup Gas Thermal Project are the two main users of natural gas produced in these two fields. The following table shows the production and utilization of natural gas in Assam since 1961.

TABLE—10.8
Production and utilization of natural gas in Assam.

Year	Production	Utilization			Total
		Assam Oil Company*	Oil India Limited*	Others	
1.	2.	3.	3.	4.	5.
1961	171.88	153.92	13.66	3.28	170.86
1962	209.64	165.04	17.00	4.93	187.05
1963	240.90	142.81	23.23	6.03	172.07
1964	430.71	141.20	30.04	10.73	181.37
1965	736.63	135.46	41.38	10.95	187.79
1966	803.16	145.31	64.19	46.09	255.59
1967	1,221.50	139.94	71.40	51.24	262.58
1968	1,316.71	146.19	66.03	104.89	317.11
1969	1,383.55	143.50	66.86	157.23	367.59
1970	1,424.37	133.99	54.77	171.29	360.05
1971	1,509.00	123.66	70.25	181.06	374.97

* For field operations.

10.6.4 Coal is another important mineral product of Assam. Coal reserves in Assam are distributed in different zones and coal mining operations are confined to above the water drainage level. The coal deposits of Assam are mainly located in the districts of Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh and in some parts of Goalpara and Mikir Hills area. The colleries of Ledo belt in Eastern Assam has been taken over by the Govt. of India in its process of nationalisation of the non-coking coal mines throughout the country. The production and distribution of coal in Assam (excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram) from 1969 to 1972 is shown in the following table.

TABLE—10.9
Production and distribution of Coal in Assam.

Year 1.	Unit 2.	Production 3.	Distribution
1969	'000' tonnes	516	512
1970	Do	507	504
1971	Do	562	563
1972 (upto Aug)	Do	386	385

10.6.5 Limestone deposit is mainly concentrated in the Mikir Hills district. A cement factory at Bokajan located in the same district is being constructed by the Cement Corporation of India which will use limestone deposit available in the district.

11. Labour, Employment and Wages.

11.1. According to 1971 Census, economically active population of Assam was 40.88 lakhs as against 46.09 lakhs in 1961. The rate of work participation was 27.9 percent as against 42.5 percent in 1961. The notable decline in the work participation rate was not entirely due to decline in the working population. It is mostly attributable to the adoption of a more restricted definition of worker in the 1971 census than that used in the census of 1961. In 1961 census worker status was liberally given to those persons whose contributions to productive activity were very meagre. The work participation rate during 1971 in case of males was 48.8 percent and that for females was 4.6 percent. Table below shows the distribution of workers by sex and three broad heads industrial categories in Assam as per 1971 census:

TABLE 11.1
Distribution of Agricultural workers and other workers in Assam by sex according to Census, 1971

District	Agricultural Workers												Other Workers	Percentage of cultivators & agricultural labourers to total workers	
	Total Workers						Cultivators							Agr. Labourers	Percentage of workers to total population
	Persons (2)	Male (3)	Female (4)	Persons (5)	Male (6)	Female (7)	Persons (8)	Male (9)	Female (10)	Persons (11)	Male (12)	Female (13)			
(1)													(14)	(15)	
ASSAM	4088	3767	321	2284	2233	51	406	385	21	1398	1149	249	65.8	27.9	
GOALPARA	599	582	17	391	388	3	77	72	5	131	122	9	78.1	26.9	
KAMRUP	745	722	23	461	456	5	60	58	2	224	208	16	69.9	26.1	
DARRANG	505	461	44	284	281	3	43	41	2	178	139	39	64.8	29.1	
LAKHIMPUR }	617	531	86	275	266	9	30	28	2	312	237	75	49.4	29.1	
DOBIRGARH															
NOWGONG	456	442	14	292	289	3	60	59	1	104	94	10	77.2	27.1	
SIBSAGAR	523	445	78	238	229	9	29	27	2	256	189	67	51.1	28.5	
CACHAR	493	452	41	230	226	4	98	92	6	165	134	31	66.5	28.8	
MUKIR HILLS	118	108	10	91	84	7	8	7	1	19	17	2	83.9	31.1	
N. C. HILLS	32	24	8	22	14	8	1	1	0.2	9	9	0.4	71.9	42.1	

11.2 From the above table, it will be seen that number of Agricultural workers—cultivators and agricultural workers together accounts for 65.8 percent of the total workers in the State. Dibrugarh and Lakhimpur, Sibsagar and Darrang districts had lower percentage of agricultural workers to total workers while in Mikir Hills the percentage of agricultural workers to total workers was the highest (83.9 percent).

11.3 **Industrial dispute** :— Some idea about the employee-employer relationship can be had from the frequency of industrial disputes and mandays lost over a period of years as given in the table below. During the period 1966-1972, the year 1967 recorded the highest number of industrial disputes and also the highest number of mandays lost.

TABLE—11.2

Year	No. of disputes	No. of workers involved	No. of Mandays lost
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1966	55	30,826	71,647
1967	86	63,388	209,094
1968	26	16,878	48,917
1969	21	13,902	63,118
1970	16	13,515	24,101
1971 (State sphere only)	16	6,307	11,818
1972 (Upto October, State sphere only)	16	7,493	19,148

During 1972 the number of strikes and lockouts were equal to that in the previous year. In 1972, the number of mandays lost and number of workers involved were greater than that in 1971. From the study of the above table it is clear that in 1972 general industrial relationship was more peaceful than that of 1967. The number of strikes and lockouts was much less as compared to some other states of the country in 1972 viz. Maharashtra (662) West Bengal (339), Tamil Nadu (334), Bihar (236) etc.

11.4 **Minimum Wages** :— With a view to providing economic justice to the working class people, the Minimum Wages Act was introduced in 1952. The Act covered workers in Tea Plantation, Motor transport, Rice and Flour Mills. Between 1953-59 the Act was extended to cover Agricultural Labour and workers under public works department (road construction, building-construction, stone breaking and stone crushing) and under local authorities.

11.5 The minimum wages for unskilled workers under the public works department was revised at Rs. 3.25 per day in 1964. For workers engaged in steamerghat the minimum wage was fixed in 1965 and the rate fixed for unskilled workers was Rs. 85.00 per month. In 1966, minimum wage for workers in engineering and plywood industries was fixed at the rate of Rs. 3.25 per day for unskilled workers. The minimum wages Act was extended to bidi making industry in 1966 and the rate fixed was Rs. 2.75 per 1,000 bidis. This act was extended to the jute baling industry in 1967 and the wage fixed was Rs. 85.00 per month for unskilled workers. The wages in engineering industry showed an upward revision during the year. For tea industry, minimum wages are to be fixed by the wage-board. There is a move to revise further the wage rates of unskilled labour in 'D' class area to Rs. 3.50. The decision is reported to have been taken at the third meeting of the Minimum Wages Advisory Board.

11.6 **Agricultural labour wages:**— Table below shows the average daily wage rate in rural areas of Assam during 1966-1972.

TABLE—11.3
Average Daily Wages rate (Rs.)

Year	Carpenter	Blacksmith	Field labourer	Other Agri. Labourer (man)	Herdsman
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1966	5.3	5.2	3.2	3.3	1.9
1967	5.8	6.2	3.3	3.5	2.5
1968	6.3	5.7	3.4	3.3	2.2
1969	6.8	6.1	3.7	3.7	3.0
1970	6.8	6.3	3.7	4.2	3.3
1971	6.8	6.4	3.6	3.9	3.2
1972	7.5	7.1	3.4	3.9	3.2

From the above table it is seen that there is an almost increasing trend of average daily wage rate in rural areas of Assam. The average daily wage rate for carpenter and blacksmith increased from Rs. 6.8 and Rs. 6.4 in 1971 to Rs. 7.5 and Rs. 7.1 respectively in 1972.

11.7 **Parity index:**— The index number of parity between prices received by the farmers for their sale of agricultural output and prices paid by the farmers for their consumption and cultivation cost indicates the relative economic condition of the farmers. It will be seen that in 1968, farmers received better prices as a result of which parity index rose to 139 during the year. During 1969, due to precipitate decline in foodgrains prices, parity

index came down to 126 but in 1970 it recovered to 132. Again in 1971 and 1972, it came down to 129 and 128 respectively.

Parity index between prices received by the farmers and prices paid by the farmers for the years from 1966 to 1972 is shown in the table below :—

TABLE—11.4.

Year	Prices received by the farmer	Prices paid by the farmer	Parity index
1.x	2.	3.	4.
1966	237	203	116
1967	299	239	125
1968	344	247	139
1969	298	236	126
1970	333	253	132
1971	344	265	129
1972	340	265	128
1972 :— January	318	258	123
February	312	255	122
March	325	257	126
April	329	262	126
May	342	260	132
June	351	261	134
July	361	269	134
August	374	274	137
September	359	276	130
October	355	271	131
November	344	272	126
December	314	265	118

11.8 Employment in factories .— The position of employment in registered factories of Assam during 1971 is not satisfactory. The number of employees came down from 78.2 thousand in 1966 to 75.4 thousand in 1971. From the employment point of view, the main industries were tea factories, plywood and saw mills, rice and flour mills. It will be seen from table 11.5 given below that the number of employment in tea factories had been gradually decreasing till 1969; it then increased to 48.05 thousand and 48.37 thousand in 1970 and 1971 respectively. The number of employees in plywood and saw mills dwindled in 1968. From 5.96 thousand in 1968 it had increased to 6.29 thousand in 1970 and further to 6.39 thousand in 1971. It will be clear from the table that employment has declined in all industries except tea factories, plywood and saw mills and petroleum industry during 1971 as compared with that of 1970.

TABLE—11.5.

Industry-group 1.	Number of employees					
	1966 2.	1967 3.	1968 4.	1969 5.	1970 6.	1971 7.
1. Govt. and local fund factories.	5,963	8,583	9,515	9,643	9,530	8,899
2. Rice and Flour Mills.	1,348	2,451	2,285	2,281	2,284	2,227
3. Tea factories.	52,807	48,523	47,123	46,165	48,052	48,365
4. Plywood and saw mills.	3,389	5,984	5,956	6,072	6,295	6,386
5. Match factories	715	701	773	980	1,115	1,024
6. Petroleum industry	1,023	950	941	1,254	942	1,153
7 Other factories.	12,981	9,936	10,526	10,836	8,287	7,533
Total	78,226	77,128	77,119	77,231	76,505	75,387

11.9. Employment in small industrial units in the unorganised sector:— The number of small industrial units not registered under the Factories Act, in the urban areas of the plains districts of Assam in the year 1969 was 7197, providing employment to 21,380 persons; the units employing 5 or more persons numbered 1051 and gave employment to 8,340 persons while the units employing less than 5 persons numbered 6,146 and had 13,028 persons employed. The district of Kamrup led in respect of both the number of industrial units (3,624) and employment (10,769) followed by the districts of Goalpara and Dibrugarh. As regards industry wise employment, textiles (silk and cotton) accounted for the largest number of employment being 5,988 or 28.0 percent of the total followed by motor vehicles repairing (1641), furniture making (1542) Jewellery (1117), letter press (1078) and bakery (1069).

11.10 Census of Assam Govt. Employees:—The number of Assam Government Employees (Including Meghalaya and Mizoram) as on 31st March 1968 was 89.9 thousand as against 84.8 thousand during the previous year. The number of Assam Government employees (excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram) came down to 78.1 thousand as on 31st March 1971 as a result of re-organisation of the State. The number of State Government Employees according to status as on 31st March is shown in the following table.

TABLE—11.7.
As on 31st March of the year.

Status 1.	1967		1968		*1971	
	Number 2.	Percent 3.	Number 4.	Percent 5.	Numbr 6.	Percent 7.
Gazetted	3,149	3.7	3,511	3.9	3,744	4.8
Non-Gazetted	41,271	48.6	42,654	47.5	40,052	51.3
Grade IV	40,419	47.7	43,690	48.6	34,330	43.9
Total	84,839	100.0	89,855	100.0	78,126	100.0

* As per returns received.

N.B. :— Figures for the year 1967 and 1968 relate to Assam including Meghalaya and Mizo Hills while those of 1971 relate to Assam after re-organisation on the basis of returns received.

11.11 Public Sector Employment :— According to employment market surveys carried out by the Directorate of Employment and Craftsman Training, employment in the public sector increased from 244.2 thousand in 1968 to 266.4 thousand in 1971, and then declined to 235.1 in 1972. It may be pointed out that the Census of Assam Govt. employees embraced only the regular employees of State Govt. while the employment market surveys covered all categories of State Government and Central Government employees including casual employees whose services are subject to termination without notice.

The table below shows the number of persons employed in public sector undertakings for the past few years.

TABLE—11.8

Employment in the Public Sector undertakings in Assam

Undertaking 1.	Persons employed as on 31st March				
	1968 2.	1969 3.	1970 4.	1971 5.	1972 6.
1. Railways	43.5	41.5	39.1	40.1	39.7
2. Other Central Govt. Establishment.	35.2	37.4	37.7	38.7	31.9
3. State Govt	107.0	113.9	113.4	114.4	97.9
4. Quasi-Govt.	43.6	50.5	53.8	68.9	58.8
5. Local bodies	14.9	10.4	11.8	9.3	6.8
Total	244.2	253.7	255.8	266.4	235.1

11.12 Unemployed persons registered with employment exchanges are classified as urban and rural according to the current address given by them. An examination of the Live Register shows that over the last few years the number of job seekers in urban area was increasing at a slower rate than that in rural area. The urban and rural components of the registrants on Live Register for the past few years are computed in the following table.

TABLE—11.9

As on June 30 of 1.	Urban		Rural	
	Number 2.	Percent 3.	Number 4.	Percent 5.
1961	14,029	50.2	13,897	49.8
1965	20,545	42.0	28,398	58.0
1968	25,739	41.6	36,090	58.4
1969	27,808	43.5	36,078	56.5
1970	29,470	42.8	39,247	57.2

11.13 The number of job seekers through employment exchanges has increased from 73,560 in 1966 to 90,357 in 1971 but it came down to 83,322 in 1972. The number

of placement dwindled from 7,250 in 1966 to 4,940 in 1969; it then increased to 7,032 in 1970 and gradually came down to 5,299 in 1972. The number of registration and number of persons seeking employment through employment exchanges during the last few years are furnished below :—

Table—11.10

Year (1)							Registration (2)	Placement (3)
1966	...	...	...	...	...	...	73,560	7,250
1967	...	...	...	...	...	...	68,701	6,258
1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	76,995	5,632
1969	...	...	...	...	...	...	69,424	4,940
1970	...	...	...	...	...	...	85,808	7,032
1971	...	...	...	...	...	...	90,357	6,015
1972	...	...	...	...	...	...	83,322	5,299

The distribution of applicants in respect of occupation available in the Live Register for the year 1972 can be seen in the following Table.

Table—11.11

Occupation (1)							Number of Applicant (2)	
(a) Professional, Technical and related works	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,181	
(b) Administration, executive and managerial works	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	
(c) Clerical and related works	...	...	...	...	...	...	959	
(d) Sales workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	
(e) Farmers, fishermen, Hunters and related works	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,769	
(f) Mines, quarryman and related workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
(g) Workers in transport and communication	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,964	
(h) Craftsman, production, process works and labour not elsewhere classified	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,548	
(i) Service, sports and related workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,583	
(j) Workers not classified by occupations	...	...	...	...	...	...	64,521	
Total							98,591	

11.14 Information made available by the employment exchange reveals that registration of educated employment seekers increased considerably during 1972. This increase has been particularly attributed to increase in the number of graduate, matriculate and undergraduate applicants. The number of job seekers particularly engineering graduates was the highest in 1971. Over and above, Live Register has been overwhelmingly dominated by a large number of unskilled registrants who have little or no job training and experience. The number of educated job seekers in the Live Register is furnished in the following table.

Table—11.12

Qualification	As on 31st Dec. '69		As on 31st Dec. '70		As on 31st Dec. '71		As on 31st Dec. '72	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
TECHNICAL								
1. Engineering graduate	215	0.3	386	0.5	454	0.6	364	0.5
2. Medical graduate	6		16		39		88	
3. Agricultural and Veterinary graduate	8		23		24		51	
GENERAL								
4. Post Graduate	385	0.6	526	0.7	625	0.7	634	0.6
5. Graduate	2,322	3.5	4,429	5.7	5,447	5.8	6,061	6.1
6. Under-graduate	3,695	5.6	5,734	7.3	7,940	8.5	7,939	8.1
7. Matriculate	11,900	18.8	14,197	18.1	16,033	17.1	17,159	17.4
8. Others	47,518	72.0	52,739	67.6	63,279	67.4	66,295	67.2
Total	66,049	100.00	78,050	100.00	93,841	100.00	98,591	100.00

The following table shows the number of applicants belonging to a few special categories of job seekers.

TABLE—11.13

Category of applicants	At the end of the year			
(1)	1969	1970	1971	1972
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1) Displaced persons	519	485	473	268
(b) Ex-service man	551	731	642	619
(c) Scheduled Caste	2,670	3,518	5,254	5,974
(d) Scheduled Tribes	4,083	4,645	5,762	4,856
(e) Women	6,026	7,733	9,154	9,998

11.15 Employment and unemployment in Tea Gardens.—The problem of unemployment in tea industry has been increasing in magnitude since the last few years. The total employment in the industry decreased from 404 thousand in 1967 to 389 thousand a year later and further to 386 thousand in 1969. This downward trend of employment along with increase of tea garden labour population has led to a considerable surplus of labour population. In order to provide employment to this unemployed labour population a special Employment Exchange at Dibrugarh with three units was established. The table below shows the registration and placement of such surplus tea garden labour through the special employment exchange for the past few years.

TABLE—11.14

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
1. Number of surplus labour registered.	3,249	1,641	3,223	1,815	4,313	3,463	1,696
2. Number of registered labour placed on employment.	786	829	576	744	1,773	628	410

11.16 Problem of Unemployment and various measures to solve this problem :—The problem of unemployment has become the most talked about problem in Assam. This chronic and complex problem has been attributed to the general backwardness and slow growth of economic development of the State against the backdrop of a very high rate of population growth. The need for giving a specific employment orientation in the State Five Year Plans, is thus, obvious. Though the successive State plans have generated a good deal of employment potential, they could not provide gainful employment to all the new entrants to the labour force. Every plan left an increasing backlog of unemployed to be taken care of in succeeding plan. This problem acquired a new dimension at the end of the Third Plan when the technical personnel also joined the rank of unemployed. At the end of the Third plan the backlog of unemployed persons in Assam was estimated to be over 3 lakhs. During the interregnum between the Third and Fourth Plans, another 3.75 lakhs of job seekers were estimated to have joined the labour force.

11.17 An Employment Review Committee was set up by the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1969 to review the position of employment of the people of the state in the public and private sector industries and undertakings from time to time. The first and second reports of the Committee ^{have} already been submitted to the State Assembly. The Committee has recommended a number of remedial measures for improving the employment position of the State, specially with regard to giving employment to local people in various public and private sector industries and undertakings in the State.

11.18 The Govt. has proposed to take a fresh look at the employment position in the country through the National Sample Survey. While carrying out the 25th round of National Sample Survey in the State, information has been collected regarding willingness of households (in rural areas of Assam) to take up regular full

time wage employment within the village and outside the village. Out of estimated 106 thousand small cultivator house-holds, 30% of the households are willing to take employment outside the village. As against this, out of estimated 86 thousand non-cultivating wage-earner house holds, 44% of the households prefer to take up regular full time wage employment of which about two thirds prefer to work even outside the village. From the report on employment and unemployment of the weaker section of the population, it is seen that the average earnings per man-day is higher for all the age groups among both males and females for non-cultivating wage-earners compared to that of wage-earners among the small cultivators. The wage/salary earnings per man-day is smaller among the female workers compared to that of male workers. The Centre has made an allocation of Rs. 90 crores for employment schemes in the States and Union Territories during 1972-73; of this Rs. 13 crores are for the continuation of schemes for educated unemployed, Rs. 30 crores for elementary education and Rs. 27 crores for formulating special employment programme for generating employment and training opportunities for highly qualified personnel.

11.19 The Planning Commission has tentatively made a total allocation of Rs. 238.22 crores for various employment programmes for 1973-74. In the draft outline of the Fifth Five Year Plan of Assam it is stated that the plan will increase employment potential for the educated, particularly on the technical side. The employment potential likely to be generated for technical personnel is furnished below :—

TABLE—11.15

Technical personnel (1)	<i>degree holder</i> (2)	Diploma holders (3)	Medical (4)	
1. Engineering (Civil Electrical and mining)	2,030	3006	1. Pharmacists	250
2. Agricultural	651	200	2. Nursing and Midwifery.	1,350
3. Veterinary and dairying	470	1200	3. Sanitary Inspector	200
4. Forestry	27	74	4. Doctors	523
5. Town planner	1			
Total	3,179	4,480		2,323

11.20 The additional employment potential that will be generated under the State Plan by the end of the Fifth Five year Plan has been computed as under.

1. Agricultural production.	7.55 lakhs.
2. Soil conservation .	0.01 "
3. Fisheries.	0.03 "
4. Forests	0.01 "
5. Khadi and village industries.	0.52 "
6. Roads	0.23 "
7. Irrigation.	0.25 "
8. Flood control	0.67 "

11.21 In addition, the large industries sector in both the State and central sector will employ 10,000 persons. Conscious efforts will be needed to generate gainful employment. In the draft outline it is also stated that distribution of foodgrains, simple contract work of construction departments, employment in agro-service and custom centre and fertiliser distribution, translation of text books, self employment in small industry, dairying and poultry keeping should be increasingly used for this purpose.

12. Prices and Cost of Living

12.1 The price situation in Assam is essentially a manifestation of the all-India phenomenon of rising prices. But the upswing of the price level in the State has been more pronounced due to certain factors like rapid growth of population, transport bottlenecks and a virtual dependence on outside supply for the essential consumer goods.

12.2 Till the end of the First Plan, Assam along with India as a whole experienced more or less a stable price situation. But the situation changed with the beginning of the Second Plan and the prices started to rise continuously, though the bumper crop harvest during 1968 brought about a happy reversal for a short period after which prices again started to rise.

12.3 The general index of wholesale prices in Assam rose by 3.98 percent in 1972 as against 1.38 percent in 1971. The all-India general price index (base 1961-62 = 100) rose by 7.8 percent in 1972 as compared to an increase of 3.9

percent in 1971. Though the overall rise of prices in Assam was only 3.98 percent in 1972, the prices of sugar and gur increased by 31.15 percent, pulses by 16.36 percent, total food by 2.67 percent and non-food by 7.03 percent. The distinctive feature of the price trend during 1972 was the continuous uptrend of food prices upto the month of August followed by a declining trend during the later part of the year. The prices of non-food commodities showed a continuous rise throughout the year.

12.4 The general index of wholesale prices which stood at 248.3 in January 1972, reached the peak at 276.9 in September, then gradually declined to 266.1 in December. The movement of the index number of wholesale prices in Assam during the last few years is shown in the following table.

TABLE—12.1

Index of wholesale prices : Assam

(Base 1953 = 100)

Year	Cereals	Pulses	Edible oils	Sugar and gur	Total food	Liquors and tobacco	Raw material	Finished products	Total Non-food	All Commodities (col. 6 + 10)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1966 ...	252.2	187.5	219.5	158.9	218.1	188.0	244.7	165.5	199.1	211.6
1967 ...	321.4	279.3	249.1	285.8	272.8	160.8	227.5	176.2	194.7	247.0
1968 ...	369.5	254.1	222.1	377.8	292.4	244.9	230.6	178.1	206.1	263.3
1969 ...	274.4	212.2	227.1	250.6	248.8	318.6	267.9	173.2	229.9	242.5
1970 ...	295.6	227.9	252.7	176.4	265.8	240.4	258.4	151.1	218.7	250.1
1971 ...	294.9	268.9	280.9	248.1	269.6	178.0	250.7	206.2	221.7	253.6
1972 ...	290.2	312.9	277.7	325.4	276.8	240.8	268.5	208.2	237.3	263.7
1972 January	263.8	319.6	283.7	288.7	261.1	204.9	246.9	205.7	222.5	248.3
February	255.0	305.5	271.9	275.2	255.2	197.9	241.9	206.4	220.2	243.6
March	266.1	293.2	268.2	297.7	264.0	198.6	252.4	211.0	227.0	251.7
April	277.3	284.4	271.5	299.9	269.5	226.5	255.2	206.0	229.3	256.1
May	288.2	282.1	268.0	296.0	272.5	239.0	251.3	208.8	230.2	258.4
June	298.5	297.1	274.3	307.7	281.8	240.1	265.9	208.1	236.0	266.6
July	304.7	310.3	279.3	320.4	287.9	240.1	273.2	208.0	239.0	271.7
August	313.0	313.8	279.9	358.8	298.3	239.0	258.8	207.8	232.9	276.6
September	316.7	326.3	283.7	381.3	292.6	268.6	281.0	208.5	245.5	276.9
October	313.2	333.9	285.6	380.6	287.5	257.1	288.4	209.5	247.7	274.3
November	306.4	339.9	284.3	357.6	281.8	284.0	300.8	209.7	257.0	273.5
December	279.5	348.6	282.5	340.4	269.0	293.9	306.4	209.1	260.2	266.1

12.5 The percentage variations of the index of wholesale prices (both food and non-food articles) in Assam for the last few years are indicated below :—

TABLE-12.2
Percentage variations of wholesale indices
(Base 1953 = 100) over the preceeding year

Items	Weight	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	December 1972 over Dec. 1971
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
All Commodities	(1000.00)	+16.7	+6.5	-7.9	+3.1	+1.4	+4.0	+4.3
A. Food Articles	(667.33)	+25.1	+7.2	-14.9	+6.8	+1.4	+2.7	-1.4
Cereals	(265.56)	+27.4	+12.1	-23.9	+7.7	-0.2	-1.6	-2.8
Pulses	(32.60)	+48.9	-9.1	-16.5	+7.3	+18.0	+16.4	+10.3
Edible Oils	(37.23)	+13.4	-10.9	+2.2	+11.2	+11.2	-1.1	-1.9
Sugar and gur	(60.76)	+79.8	+32.1	-33.7	-29.7	+40.6	+31.2	+24.3
B. Non-food Articles	(332.67)	-2.3	+5.8	+11.5	-4.9	+1.4	+7.0	+18.2
Liquors and tobacco	(37.16)	-14.5	+52.3	+30.0	-24.6	-26.0	+35.3	+51.2
Raw materials	(136.48)	-7.1	+1.3	+16.1	-3.6	-3.0	+7.1	+31.2
Finished products	(136.52)	+6.4	+1.0	-2.8	-12.8	+36.5	+1.0	-3.1

12.6 Consumer Price Index Numbers for Working Class :—

The consumer price index numbers for working class for three Centres of Assam Viz ; Gauhati, Silchar and Tinsukia have been compiled by the Labour Bureau, Govt. of India till March, 1969 and by the Director of Statistics since then. On the basis of the indices for the above centres, an all-Assam average is worked out to show the general trend of the cost of living of the working class for the State as a whole.

12.7 Consumer price index numbers are prepared also for rural population in the plains districts and tea garden workers. The movement of the consumer price indices prepared for the various categories of workers follows more or less the trend of wholesale prices as discussed earlier.

TABLE-12.3
Consumer Price Index Number for working class
(Base 1949 = 100)

Year (1)	Gauhati (2)	Silchar (3)	Tinsukia (4)	Assam (5)
1949				
1967	151	194	189	173
1968	182	219	249	220
1969	220	228	255	239
1970	195	213	228	213
1971	216	231	240	230
1972	229	248	249	240
1972 :—	251	276	269	261
January	241	255	260	252
February	242	255	262	253
March	244	252	264	255
April	248	258	261	255
May	249	264	262	256
June	252	288	265	260
July	254	296	273	265
August	258	294	275	268
September	256	290	277	268
October	255	287	279	270
November	258	278	268	262
December	254			

12.8 Consumer Price Index Numbers for non-manual Employees :— The consumer price Index numbers for non-manual employees are compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation, Government of India for a number of urban centres. Gauhati is the only centre in Assam which has been covered under this scheme. The movement of the index for this centre in comparison with another centre at Shillong of the Meghalaya State is shown in the table given below :—

TABLE—12.4
Consumer Price Index Numbers for
Non-manual Employees
(Base 1960=100)

Year	Gauhati	Shillong
1966	134	130
1967	146	150
1968	155	162
1969	155	164
1970	167	165
1971	178	174
1972	184	180
1972—January	179	173
February	179	172
March	179	174
April	178	179
May	181	180
June	183	181
July	186	184
August	188	183
September	188	184
October	187	185
November	188	186
December	186	184

13. Commerce

13.1 Banking :—

13.1.1. At present altogether 13 commercial banks are operating in Assam. The total number of offices of these banks stood at 163 in May 1973 as against 149 in June 1972. Prior to nationalisation only 74 offices of 11 commercial banks were functioning in the State. The number of nationalised banks (excluding the State Bank of India and its subsidiary the State Bank of Bikanir and Jaipur) operating in the State was 8 upto May, 1973. Of all commercial banks operating in Assam, the United Bank of India had the largest number of branch offices, 57 in number closely followed by the State Bank of India (with 52 branches) and the United Commercial Bank (with 26 branches). There is only one foreign bank, the

National and Grindlays Bank functioning in the State with its only office at Gauhati. During 1972, a new bank in the name of Purbanchal Bank came into existence with a view to cater to the banking needs of the North Eastern Region. The head office of the bank is located at Gauhati.

13.1.2 The following table shows the progress of banking development in Assam (districtwise) during the post few years.

TABLE—13.1

District	Number of Office				Average population per office (in thousand)			
	June 1969	June 1971	June 1972	May 1973	June 1969	June 1971	June 1972	May 1973
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Goalpara	5	13	17	21	395	171	136	114
Kamrup	23	35	41	48	115	84	72	63
Darrang	7	11	13	13	237	157	138	142
Nowgong	7	12	17	17	221	140	102	106
Sibsagar	10	20	22	22	193	91	85	87
Lakhimpur	14	19	25	8	143	112	88	98
Dibrugarh				20				74
Cachar	6	10	11	12	294	171	159	149
Mikir Hills	1	1	2	3	174	378	195	137
N. C. Hills	1	1	1	1				
Assam Total	74	122	149	163	188	120	101	95

13.1.3 The number of commercial bank offices functioning in different sub-divisions of the State upto May 1973 can be seen in the following table.

TABLE—13.2

Sub-division	No. of offices as on May '73	
(1)	(2)	(3)
1. Goalpara District—		
(i) Goalpara	5	
(ii) Dhubri	8	
(iii) Kokrajhar	8	
2. Kamrup District—		
(i) Gauhati	38	
(ii) Nalbari	3	
(iii) Barpeta	7	
3. Darrang District—		
(i) Tezpur	9	
(ii) Mangaldoi	4	
4. Nowgong District—		
(i) Nowgong	16	
(ii) Marigaon	1	
5. Sibsaagar District—		
(i) Golaghat	6	
(ii) Jorhat	7	
(iii) Sibsaagar	9	
6. Dibrugarh District—		
(i) Dibrugarh	9	
(ii) Tinsukia	11	
7. Lakhimpur District—		
(i) Lakhimpur	4	
(ii) Dhemaji	2	
8. Cachar District—		
(i) Silchar	6	
(ii) Karimganj	4	
(iii) Hailakandi	2	
9. Mikir Hills	3	
10. North Cachar Hills	1	
Total Assam	163	

Note—Offices of Co-operative Banks including Assam Co-operative Apex Bank are not included.

13.1.4. The State of Assam accounts for only 1.1 percent of the total bank offices in the country, during June 1972, thereby indicating poor banking facilities in the State. The average population per bank office in June 1969 was 188 thousand which declined to 120 thousand in June 1971 and further to 101 thousand in June 1972. The all-India average population per bank office during June 1972 stood at 40 thousand. From this it will be observed that Assam has yet to make much progress in banking sector so as to keep pace with the developoement of banking in the country as a whole.

13.1.5 A comparative picture showing the percentage share of bank offices in Assam and some other states in relation to all-India total as well as average population per bank office in these states during June 1972 is given below:—

TABLE—13.3

State	(As on June 1972)	
	Percentage share of States's bank offices to all-India total	Population per bank office (in thousand)
(1)	(2)	(3)
1. Assam	1.1	101
2. Maharashtra	12.3	30
3. Tamil Nadu	10.9	28
4. Gujrat	9.1	22
5. West Bengal	5.6	58
6. Uttar Pradesh	9.7	67
7. Punjab	4.8	21
All India	100.00	40

13.1.6 The volume of deposits of public sector banks in the State increased from Rs. 3089 lakhs in June 1969 to Rs. 5442 lakhs in June 1972 thereby showing an increase of 76.2 percent over the period of three years. Similarly, advances of these banks to priortiy sectors also increased form Rs. 183 lakhs to Rs. 1020 lakhs during the same period. The share of priority sectors to total bank credit of the State stood at 37.7 percent during June 1972 as against 10.3 percent in June 1969.

13.1.7 The aggregate deposits and total credit of public sector banks and their advances to priority sectors in Assam as well as in India as on June 1972 is shown in the following table.

TABLE 13.4.

Items (1)	(Amount in Rs. lakhs)	
	Assam (2)	Total India (3)
1. Total deposits	54,42	6516,98
2. Total credit	27,06	4546,20
3. Total credit to priority sectors	10,20	10,47,71
3.1. Agriculture (excluding plantations)	87	379,96
3.2. Small scale industries	4,52	523,41
3.3. Road and water transport operators	2,04	50,10
3.4. Retail trade and small business	2,64	79,22
3.5. Professional and self-employed	12	12,11
3.6. Education	1	2,91
4. Share of priority sectors to total bank credit (percent).	37.7	23.0

13.1.8 The table 13.5 below shows the statistics of offices, deposits and advances of scheduled commercial banks in Assam as on June 1971.

TABLE 13.5.

District (1)	Functioning offices (2)	Deposits		Advances	
		Reporting offices (3)	Amounts (4)	Reporting offices (5)	Amount (6)
1. Goalpara	13	12	242	11	44
2. Kamrup	33	31	1442	26	847
3. Darrang	10	10	303	7	94
4. Nowgong	11	10	221	10	99
5. Sibsagar	18	18	383	17	138
6. Lakhimpur	}	19	1151	17	446
7. Dibrugarh					
8. Cachar	10	10	414	10	60
9. Mikir Hills	}	2	N.A.	2	N.A.
10. N. C. Hills					
ASSAM TOTAL	116	112	4156	100	1728

13.1.9 Under the "Lead Bank Scheme," the very objective of which is mobilisation of deposits on a larger scale and stepping up of lending to weak sectors of the economy through setting up of adequate banking facilities in the under-banked districts, altogether 70 offices were opened in the State of which 49 offices were opened in the lead districts.

The progress of Land Bank scheme and offices opened by Banks in their lead districts of the State

between 19.7.69 and 30.6.72 may be had from the following table:—

TABLE 13.6.

Name of Banks	Districts allotted	No. of offices opened	
		Total	Of which in lead districts
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. United Bank of India	Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh and Cachar.	38	31
2. United Commercial Bank	Goalpara, Kamrup and Darrang.	18	17
3. State Bank of India	Mikir Hills and N. C. Hills	14	11

13.2 Joint Stock Companies:—Altogether, 400 joint stock companies—86 Public Limited Companies and 314 private Limited Companies were at work during 1971-72 in the State. The corresponding figures for the previous year (including Meghalaya) were 423—96 Public and 327 Private. The total authorised capital and paid-up capital were Rs. 9463 lakhs and Rs. 4420 lakhs respectively during 1971-72. The number of companies newly registered in Assam during 1971-72 was 29 as against 2524 in the country as a whole. The total authorised capital of these companies in Assam stood at Rs.453 lakhs as against Rs. 52439 lakhs for the entire country. Assam's share, therefore, accounted only 1.14 p. c. and 0.86 p. c. of all-India total in respect of newly registered companies and total authorised capital respectively during the year.

13.2.2 The following table shows the registration of new companies in Assam over the past few years:—

TABLE 13.7.

Registration of Joint Stock Companies in Assam

Item	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. No. of companies :—					
(a) Public limited	1	...	1	3	7
(b) Private limited	12	6	13	20	22
Total	13	6	14	23	29
2. Authorised capital (Rs lakhs) :—					
(a) Public limited	10	...	25	8	284
(b) Private limited	117	47	88	180	169
Total	127	47	113	188	453

13.2.3 The growth of Joint stock companies in Assam can be seen from the table given below:—

TABLE 13.8.

No. of companies of work	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(a) Public limited	93	93	93	96	86
(b) Private limited	313	319	314	327	314
Total	406	412	407	423	400

Note :—Figures given upto 1970-71 includes Meghalaya and Mizoram while the figures for 1971-72 relate to Assam proper.

13.3. Life Insurance :—

13.3.1. There has been very encouraging improvement in the life insurance business in this region, particularly in Assam. The Life Insurance Corporation of India is the only organisation engaged in life insurance business in the State. The Gauhati Division of the LIC covers all the five States and two Union Territories of the North Eastern Region. During 1971-72, the Gauhati Division has achieved an all time record in respect of business completed and settlement of claims. The Premium Income of the Division which was Rs. 76.79 lakhs during 1968-69 rose to Rs. 102.32 lakhs during 1971-72. The total number of policies introduced during 1971-72 stood at 44,265 involving a sum of Rs. 31.2 crores assured as against 35911 policies introduced during 1968-69 with a sum of Rs. 19.6 crores assured. Similarly, settlement of claims amounted to Rs. 30.1 crores involving 43104 policies during 1971-72 as against Rs. 17.9 crores involving 34626 policies during 1968-69.

13.3.2 The following table shows the performance of the Gauhati Division of the LIC in respect of business introduced and business completed in the region from 1968-69 to 1971-72 :—

TABLE—13.9

Year	Business introduced		Business completed	
	No.	Sum assured (Rs. crores)	No.	Sum assured (Rs. crores)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1968-69	35911	19.6	34626	17.9
1969-70	34547	20.1	33618	19.2
1970-71	38676	25.5	38469	25.0
1971-72	44265	31.2	43104	30.1

Source—Divisional Manager, LIC, Gauhati Division.

13.3.3. In respect of investment and credit, the Life Insurance Corporation of India is playing a big role specially as a source of credit to the State Govt. and other business organisations of the State. Item wise investment of the Corporation in the State of Assam as stood on 31st. March, 1972 can be seen in the table given below :—

TABLE—13·10

(As on 31st March, 1972)

Item of investment	Amount invested (Book value) (Rs. Lakhs)
1) State Govt. Securities ...	1523·46
2) Electricity Board—Bonds ...	290·16
Loans ...	595·00
3) State Financial Corporation—Bonds ...	44·93
Shares ...	9·50
4) Land Development Bank—Debts ...	1·99
5) Loans to State Govt. for Housing Scheme	122·86
6) Shares and Debentures of companies ...	522·86
Total ...	3110·76

Source—Divisional Manager, LIC; Gauhati Division.

14. Public Finance

14.1 Revenue and expenditure of Assam Government:

14.1.1 The budgetary actions of the Government influence greatly the economy of a country, more so in the case of developing country like ours, where Government is more involved in planning and directing the country's economic development. Tables below shows the receipt and expenditure of the Govt. of Assam under the Consolidated Fund over a number of years. The data for the years 1971-72 and 1972-73 are Revised and Budget Estimates and are therefore of a provisional nature subject to revision when accounts for the years are finalised.

TABLE—14·1

Budgetary Receipts of Govt. of Assam

Item	(Rupees Lakhs)						
	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1970-71	1971-72 (R.E.)	1972-73 (B.E.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1. REVENUE RECEIPTS	10,29	23,17	37,99	66,23	1,02,82	1,33,13	1,15,89
1·1. State taxes	5,07	10,16	12,27	21,61	28,13	33,24	35,51
1·2. Share of Central taxes	1,42	1,82	4,46	9,10	17,89	22,19	23,45
1·3. Non-tax Revenue (State)	2,27	5,36	7,38	8,10	7,94	9,92	9,39
1·4. Grants from the Centre	1,16	5,33	13,25	25,80	47,23	65,33	45,49
1·5. Recoveries	37	50	63	1,62	1,63	2,45	2,05
Capital Receipts	926	923	16,18	1,34,20	1,92,05	1,35,89	1,45,78

TABLE—14.1—contd,

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.1. Loan from the centre	49	758	8,52	51,32	64,48	36,06	77,58
2.2. Other loans	1	...	28	71,27	1,22,21	94,89	65,43
2.3. State Government Loans and advances (recovery).	9	28	51	58	3,11	2,07	1,87
2.4. Recoveries	8.67	1,37	6,87	11,03	2,25	2,87	90
3. Gross Receipts under consolidated fund (items 1+2)	19,55	32,40	54,17	2,00,43	2,94,87	2,69,02	2,61,67

TABLE—14.2

Budgetary expenditure of Govt. of Assam

(Rupees Lakhs)

Item	1950-51	1955-56	1960-61	1965-66	1970-71	1971-72 (R.E.)	1972-73 (B.E.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1. General Services	2,39	4,60	8,77	15,35	19,76	25,55	19,29
2. Social Services	2,19	5,54	10,26	21,71	33,89	35,58	33,81
2.1. Education	1,52	3,92	7,10	15,10	25,15	25,93	24,31
2.2. Medical & Public Health	63	1,53	2,98	5,78	7,49	7,80	8,12
2.3. Others	4	9	18	83	1,25	1,25	1,38
3. Economic and Development Services.	1,09	4,90	8,56	13,32	14,17	17,76	16,87
3.1. Agriculture, Fishery & Animal Husbandry	52	1,34	2,27	5,34	6,81	8,36	7,85
3.2. Industries & Transport	6	98	2,30	3,17	1,12	1,88	2,00
3.3. Forest	38	72	1,08	95	2,58	1,99	1,72
3.4. Co-operation	5	16	61	71	1,00	1,32	1,40
3.5. Community development, Rural development and local-development works.	8	1,70	2,30	3,15	2,36	4,21	3,90
4. Civil-works, Irrigation etc.	1,49	6,09	6,91	18,95	30,69	23,74	21,59
4.1. Civil works	1,42	5,89	6,10	16,21	23,25	20,63	14,53
4.2. Irrigation, Navigation and Embankments.	7	20	81	2,74	7,44	3,11	7,06
5. Miscellaneous Services	2,49	3,42	7,99	12,75	24,05	43,21	20,01
5.1. Debt-Services	7	20	1,71	8,03	15,01	22,06	22,47
5.2. Other Items	2,42	3,22	6,28	4,72	9,04	21,15	7,54
6. Total Revenue Expenditure	9,65	24,55	42,49	82,08	1,22,56	1,45,84	1,21,57
7. Total Capital Expenditure	9,25	10,50	22,62	12,000	1,70,58	1,53,02	1,52,39
7.1. Capital Out-lay	7,53	8,26	12,96	23,51	26,28	27,53	22,87
7.2. Public Debt	99	28	2,47	87,17	1,36,96	1,23,56	1,27,29
7.2.1. Loans repaid to the Central Govt.	16	28	2,43	18,33	37,68	32,63	33,10
7.2.2. Loans repaid to others	83	...	4	68,84	99,28	90,93	94,19
7.3. Loans issued by the State Govt.	73	1,96	7,19	9,32	7,34	5,93	3,23
8. Total Gross Expenditure under Consolidated Fund (6+7)	18,90	35,05	65,11	2,02,08	2,93,14	3,02,86	2,74,96

14.1.2 Revenue Receipts:—It will be seen from the table 14.1 that the revenue receipts of the State Government have been steadily increasing. The gross receipts in 1972-73 (budget estimate) stand at Rs. 115.9 crores as against Rs. 66.2 crores in 1965-66 and Rs. 10.3 crores in 1950-51. The proportion of tax revenue to total net revenue receipts went down from 65.4 percent in 1950-51 to 51.7 percent in 1972-73. The fall being more precipitate in the share of State tax revenue which fell from 51.1 percent in 1950-51 to 31.2 percent in 1972-73. The proportion of Non-tax receipts from Government of India rose from 11.7 percent in 1950-51 to 40.0 percent in 1972-73 while the contribution of non-tax revenue from State sources declined from 22.9 percent in 1950-51 to 8.2 percent in 1972-73. The share of Central taxes, which represented 14.3 percent, and 11.9 percent in 1950-51 and 1960-61 respectively has stood at 20.6 percent in 1972-73.

14.1.3 Capital receipts : Capital receipts which mostly represents loans from the Central Government, other loans, and recovery of loans and advances by the State Government has been increasing. The gross capital receipt in 1972-73 (budget estimate) stand at Rs. 145.8 crores as against Rs. 9.3 crores in 1950-51. The loans from Centre increased to Rs. 77.6 crores in 1972-73 from Rs. 0.5 crores in 1950-51.

14.1.4 Revenue expenditure : Table 14.2 shows that gross expenditure from Revenue heads increased from Rs. 9.7 crores in 1950-51 to Rs. 121.6 crores in 1972-73 representing a rise of about thirteen times. This increase is due to the vastly expanded scale of expenditure under Social and Economic and Development services under the five year plans. The relative share of expenditure under these heads has risen from 33.9 per cent in 1950-51 to 41.7 per cent in 1972-73.

14.1.5 Capital expenditure : Enormous increase has taken place in the capital account of the Government since 1950-51. The total capital outlay has increased to Rs. 22.9 crores in 1972-73 from Rs.7.5 crores in 1950-51. Repayment of loans is another major source of expenditure to the Government. The expenditure for repayment of loans increased to Rs. 127.3 crores in 1972-73 from Rs. 1.0 crore in 1950-51. Similarly the loans and advances issued by the State Government increased to Rs. 3.2 crores in 1972-73 from Rs. 0.7 crores in 1950-51.

14.2 Small Savings :

14.2.1. During 1971-72, there had been encouraging progress in the collection of small savings in Assam. The total gross and net amount collected during the year through the small savings schemes in Assam was Rs.17.60 crores and Rs. 2.86 crores respectively as against Rs. 16.48 crores and Rs.2.23 crores respectively during the corresponding period of the previous year.

Table 14.3 shows the collection of small savings in Assam over the past few years :—

TABLE—14.3

(Amount in Rs. crores)

Year (1)	Gross (2)	Net (3)
1960-61	7.05	1.61
1965-66	9.12	2.21
1968-69	12.29	1.49
1969-70	14.44	2.15
1670-71	16.48	2.23
1071-72	17.60	2.86

14.2.2 The following table shows the districtwise collection of small savings during the past few years :—

TABLE—14.4

(Amount in Rs. crores)

District 1	1968-69		1969-70		1970-71		1971-72	
	Gross 2	Net 3	Gross 4	Net 5	Gross 6	Net 7	Gross 8	Net 9
Goalpara	1.08	0.10	1.18	0.19	1.36	0.08	1.51	0.06
Kamrup	2.74	0.44	3.10	0.64	3.39	0.31	3.19	0.32
Darrang	1.16	0.16	1.57	0.33	1.76	0.33	2.01	0.39
Nowgong	1.46	0.19	1.70	0.23	1.82	0.16	1.99	0.22
Sibsagar	1.71	0.69	2.36	0.39	2.49	0.33	2.61	0.41
Lakhimpur	1.81	0.36	1.89	0.19	2.30	0.50	2.71	0.76
Dibrugarh	2.33	0.15	2.64	0.18	3.16	0.52	3.58	0.70
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mikir Hills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
N. C. Hills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Assam	12.29	1.49	14.44	2.15	16.48	2.23	17.60	2.86

(b)

(b) Includes Rs. 0.85 crores interest amount on P.O.S.B.

14.2.3 The preference of the investors in Assam among the different types of securities during 1970-71 and 1971-72 is shown below :—

TABLE—14.5

(1)	Post office savings Bank	Cumulative Time Deposit	National Saving certificate (II, III and IV issues)	(Rs. in crores)	
				P.O.R.D	P.O.T.D
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1970-71—					
(a) Gross	14.78	0.74	1.10	0.01	0.06
(b) Net	1.48	0.51	1.10	0.01	0.06
1971-72—					
(a) Gross	15.01	0.86	1.12	0.05	0.60
(b) Net	1.30	0.56	1.12	0.05	0.59

Source—Regional Director, National Savings Organisation, Shillong.

14.2.4. From the above table it appears that the preference of the investors goes much in favour of post office savings bank which alone accounts for 88.5 percent and 85.1 percent of the total gross savings during 1970-71 and 1971-72 respectively.

15. Consumption Expenditure :

15.1 Pattern of consumer expenditure :—With the increase in economic activities, the pattern of consumer expenditure also experiencing an upward trend. This can be observed from the data on household consumption expenditure collected through the National Sample Surveys (N.S.S.). The 20th Round of the N.S.S. (State Sample) shows that the per capita expenditure was Rs. 28.19 in the rural areas and Rs. 40.22 in the urban areas of Assam during 1965-66. But the 25th Round of the N.S.S. (State Samples) shows a considerable increase in the consumption expenditure of the people of Assam during 1970-71. The Survey reveals that the per capita consumption expenditure during 1970-71 works out at Rs. 40.44 in the rural areas and Rs. 58.11 in the urban areas thereby showing an increase of 43.4 percent and 44.4 percent respectively for rural and urban areas over a period of five years from 1965-66 to 1970-71. During 1970-71, the percentage share of expenditure on food and non-food items accounted for 75.84 percent and 24.16 percent respectively in the rural areas and 67.13 percent and 32.87 percent respectively in the urban areas of the State.

15.2 The following table shows in broad pattern the consumption expenditure in the rural and urban areas of Assam as revealed by the 25th Round of the N.S.S. (State sample) for 1971-72 :—

TABLE—15.1
25th Round of NSS
(July '70 to June '71)

Per capita consumer expenditure per month (in Rs.)

Item	Rural		Urban	
	Expenditure	Percent	Expenditure	Percent
1. Foodgrains ...	17.81	44.04	18.81	32.37
2. Milk and Milk Products ...	2.06	5.09	3.40	5.85
3. Other food items ...	10.80	26.71	16.80	28.91
Total food items ...	30.67	75.84	39.01	67.13
4. Fuel and lighting ...	3.25	8.04	4.31	7.42
5. Clothing ...	1.65	4.08	3.69	6.35
6. Other non-food items ...	4.87	12.04	11.10	19.10
Total non-food items ...	9.77	24.16	19.10	32.87
Total ...	40.44	100.00	58.11	100.00

15.3 The Survey also reveals that 0.21 percent of the rural population had a consumption expenditure of less than Rs. 15.00 per head per month, 8.12 percent between Rs. 15.00 and Rs. 27.99, 81.61 percent between Rs. 28.00 and Rs. 54.99, 7.93 percent between Rs. 55.00 and Rs. 74.99, and 2.13 percent Rs. 75.00 and above. In the case of urban population, 0.16 percent had a consumption expenditure of less than Rs. 18.00 per head per month, 3.63 percent between Rs. 18.00 and Rs. 27.99, 54.65 percent between Rs. 28.00 and Rs. 54.99, 26.12 percent between Rs. 55.00 and Rs. 74.99 and 15.44 percent between Rs. 75.00 and above.

15.4 The distribution of population according to monthly per capita expenditure classes can be seen in the table given below :—

TABLE—15.2
Distribution of Population according to monthly
per capita expenditure classes
(25th Round of N.S.S.)

Monthly per capita expenditure classes (in Rs.) (1)	Rural		Urban	
	Percent	Commulative percent	Percent	Commulative percent
0—7.99	...	...	...	...
Rs. 8—10.99	...	...	...	...
Rs. 11—12.99	...	...	...	...
Rs. 13—14.99	0.01	...	...	...
Rs. 15—17.99	0.20	0.21	...	...
Rs. 18—20.99	0.38	0.59	0.16	...
Rs. 21—23.99	1.23	1.87	0.69	0.85
Rs. 24—27.99	1.66	3.53	0.52	1.37
Rs. 28—33.99	4.80	8.33	2.42	3.79
Rs. 34—42.99	23.54	31.87	7.51	11.30
Rs. 43—54.99	36.54	68.41	15.77	27.07
Rs. 55—74.99	24.53	89.94	31.37	58.44
Rs. 75 and above	7.93	97.87	26.12	84.56
Total ...	2.13	100.00	15.44	100.00
	100.00	...	100.00	...