

# **THE LAND SYSTEMS OF MIZORAM**

## **CHAPTER – I**

### **HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF MIZORAM**

A major chunk of the State population belongs to the Kuki Chin group of Tibeto-Burman branch of Indo-Mongoloid race. Through the influence of events and time, this group widely dispersed spatially before administrative delimitations were carried out. As a result, the inhabitants of this group were found to be dispersed in significant percentages in the Churachandpur district of Manipur, Cachar district of Assam, eastern part of Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya and in north Tripura districts. Besides, they are also found in a large number across the frontiers in Burma and Bangladesh. These apart, there is a substantial representation of non-Mizo tribes, such as, the Chakmas and Riangs in the southern and south western part of the State.

The historical pattern of settlement of the regions illustrates the operation of various processes which are significant in not only identifying the content of the population of the State but also the conditions that were earlier superimposed on the State's geographical landscape. This later aspect was, to a substantial extent, responsible for extending crisis parameters which emerged with persistent regularities. The pattern of migration, and the distribution of various Mizo tribes and other cognate sub-groups go a long way in explaining the phenomena of change and the inbuilt dynamism in the State's policy. In this regard, it can also be stated that some of the geopolitical compulsions as well as impulses also evolved simultaneously. It also provided the State with characteristics that were at once conducive to divide the State policy.

#### **Early Mizo History**

The early history of the Mizos is virtually based on legends, traditions, customs and beliefs. The administrators and scholars had to face difficulties in tracing the historical evolution of the Mizo tribes. Nevertheless, there are innumerable folksongs, tales and fables that provide raw materials for the study of their migration and early settlement in the regions.

There is common belief among the Mizos that their ancestors emigrated from a place called 'Chhingluing'. Historians and anthropologists are of opinion that this place is in the southern China. The Mizos were pushed out of Chhingluing by a powerful people. It is also commonly believed that their forefathers came from the cave one by one and when a couple belonging to Ralte sub-tribe came out, the loud talk caused the guardian God of the cave to

close the cave fearing over population. Recently, an attempt has been made to interpret this legends rationally. Chhnglung is said to mean not a cave but the name of a prince of China (the correct word Chin Lung) who was the son of Huang T. of the Chin dynasty (221-207 B.C.) The prince was annoyed with his father and thus left the kingdom and settled in Burma.

This is a fact that the Mizos came from the east and their original home was in Mekong Valley. K. Zawla a historian assert that the Mizo people came to the Chindwin belt about 996 A.D. They lived there barely 200 years. The cruel chiefs and the great famine in which many people died, forced the rest to leave the land. Before leaving, however, they planted a banyan tree at Khampat and took a vow in front of their Burmese neighbour that they would return to Khampat. During their movement around 1466 A.D. There was absence of a chief and each family group together and each sub-tribe settled in separate villages. The sub-tribes were the Lusei (wrongly written Lushai), Ralte, Chawangthu, Khiangte, Hauhna, Chuange, Chhunathang, Ngente, Punte and Parte. Westward movement of the Mizos from Lentlang to the present Mizo country took place between 1700 and 1730 A.D.

### **Cause of Migration**

The migration of the Mizo tribes from the North-West Burma to south and then to west and finally the present Mizoram (earlier Lushai Hills District) took place due to several reasons. The tribes moved to the new place for better and adequate land for cultivation. The other causes can be the fear of insecurity which they felt during their habitation. The frequent inter-tribal disputes and pressure from the powerful bears compelled them to migrate to the safer places. History bears evidence that they moved to Kabaw Valley from North-West Burma in 1814. Further, they had to face famine (Mautam) at a regular interval of 50 years. Consequently, these tribes had to change their places of habitation. The great famines of 1882, 1991 and 1959 bear testimony to the fact.

Insecurity was the order of the day during the early history of Mizo life. The perpetual fear of attack compelled them to move to safer and defensible location in the interior. The higher ridges were normally sought, as they were easily defensible. For the same reason, the Kuki tribes moved later northward under the pressure from the Lushai clans who occupied the higher ranges in the interior. Frequent raids compelled the sub-tribes and clans to move into the interior locations. The defeated group of the Kuki-Chin branch moved to a safer place that was normally away the several groups of Tibeto-Burman race along the Tibeto-Chinese and Burma-Tibeto-China border. Under these circumstance, the Mizos occupied the Kabaw Valley from 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D. but due to pressure exerted by the Shan Movement, they moved westward towards present day Mizoram from the fear of Pawis (also used Pois). Even in the Lushai Hills areas, the process of re-distribution readjustment between the various sub-groups continued until the British came in 1890s.

Isolation was enhanced by mountainous terrain which promoted settlement of smaller group of people. Obviously, this communication gap was largely responsible for rivalries and power struggles.

### **Shan State and Kabaw Valley Settlement**

The first Mizo migration took place in the present Shan State of Kabaw Valley in Burma after they left Chhinglung.

### **Chin Hills Settlement**

The life at Khampat was miserable due to natural constraint and other calamities like famine, shortage of food materials, etc. The Lushais decided to move westward in search of better source of livelihood. They moved towards north and north-west in organized clan-wise form. They occupied areas along the Indo-Burmese frontiers in Chin Hills in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century A.D. They settled and established villages clan-wise. Some of these villages are still in existence such as Seiport, Suaipui, Saipui, Saihmun and Bochung.

During the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century A.D. the first batch of the Mizo crossed Tiau river and settled in the area of present day Mizoram and they were called as Kukis. The word Kuki has assumed different meanings. The term (Kuki) was given by the Bengalis to distinguish the tribesmen from the plain settler. Major Shakespear has referred the term 'old Kuki' and 'Khawtlang' to differentiate them from the Lushai. These old Kukis migrated from Burma and went as far as Chittagong Hill Tracts and Hills of Tipperah. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the term Kuki mean the inhabitants of the interior and inaccessible mountain tracts. In Cachar (Assam), it generally means some family of the 'Thado' or Khawtlang clan. It is categorized as new and old Kuki-Chin people which constitute the eastern most group of Indo-Mongoloid branch and are linguistically similar to the Burmese, Lolo and Kachins (Singphos) but culturally different and are akin to the Nagas and Bodos. The Luseis are one of well known tribes of the Kuki-Chin group of the people. The first batch of Mizo tribes who migrated from Chin Hills into the present Mizoram and then to Cachar were the Rangkhols, Betes or Hmars with their sub-clans. These were called Old Kukis. Even today, many village settled by these people in Mizoram are still in existence such as Khawbung, Zote, Biate, Khelte, Darngawn, Leiri, Lungtan. Broadly speaking, there are five major tribes – Lushei, Ralte, Hmar, Pawi etc. The minor sub-tribes are commonly known as 'Awzia'.

### **Lusei**

The Lusei sub-group consists of ten commoners and six chief clans (Thangura Chief). The commoners are Pachuau, Chhangte, Chawngthu, Hauhnar, Chuanga, Chaunghang, Hrahsel, Tochwawng, Vanchhawng and Chhakchhuak. The chief clans are Zadeng, Palian, Thangluah, Rivung, Rokhhum and Sailo. Search for economic livelihood compelled them to migrate westward. Thangluah and Rokhum passed through the Hills and moved west as well as to Tripura and Sylhet border. They were followed by the Zadeng, who penetrated into the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The Thangluah moved west-ward as far as Demagiri and barkhal. Palian followed the same route as the Zadeng. The Lushei tribes moved forward from South-East round about 1810 and established complete supremacy over the North Lushai Hills between 1840 and 1850 A.D. The Sailo clan into prominence and successfully subdued all their rivals.

### **Paite**

The Paites belonged to old Kuki group. (Paite means goer). In Mizoram, they are confined to an area between two rivers Tiau and Run, in the north-eastern Mizoram., Paites living in central part of Mizoram have lost their language but those living in Manipur (Churachandpur) and north-east Mizoram have preserved their traditional traits.

### **Ralte**

The Raltes belong to Kuki group whop came from the north. They were subjugated by the Dulien who migrated from Chin Hills. They had distinct social customs and had noticeable different in the dialects. They were allotted a separate portion of village land. They were predominantly settled in western Lushai villages in Lenkhuang, Kalkhom and Lalhrima. The Ralte sub-group accepted the dominance of the Duliens but continued to maintain their traditional customs and language. Among the Duliens, the Ralte language is understood and the Sailo chiefs habitually use Ralte language.

### **Rankhol and Thado**

About the middle of 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Rankhol settled down in the area (near the Cachar border) but were subsequently pushed northward by the Thado tribes. The Thado tribe had settlements in the Lushai and Chin Hills after dislodging Rankhol and Bete tribes. But the Thados, like those whom they replaced, could not resist the advancing waves of Lushai tribes. The Lushai clans moved northward by about 1810 A.D. and the Thado were gradually pushed northward of Lushai Hills were similarly, conquered by the Sokte and were driven towards north into Manipur where they settled in southern region of Manipur.

### **Shendus**

The Shendu tribe includes all the Haka-Chin tribes including the Lakhers (Klangklanga) and also other Chin tribes such as Maras. The British called them Shendus. Lt. Phayrs (1841) refers to the Tseindus and gives a list of 13 Tseindus clans, some of which can be identified with Mara clan, and others appear to be Poi. The Shendus, according to Mackenzie were a formidable nation living to the North-East of Blue mountain. These tribes appeared to be more numerous as a people than any other Indo-Chinese Hill race who extended over a large part of the country. The Lakhers, as a separate tribes were first mentioned in 1852. Cap. Tickell refers to the tribes as Heuma or Shandus. Heuma is the name of the Lakher village in north Arakan known to the Lushais as Vaki.

### **Lakher**

The Lakhers inhabited south-eastern corner of the Lushai Hills district and south of Haka sub-divisions of the Chin district of Burma. Geographically, this tribe was located west of Kolodyne river and south of Blue Mountain. The Lakher villages were located in the large bend of the river. The principal Mara tribal groups were Tlongsai, Howthai, Zeuhnanh, Lialai, Sabeu, and Heima. The Shendus covered Poi as well as Lakher tribes. The Lakhers were surrounded by the Fanais and Lushais in west, Chins in the east and north and the Khumis, Matus and Khyengs in the south. These were a branch of the 'Lai' tribe of Chin and spoke a language/dialect which was similar to 'Lai'.

### **Chakmas**

The Chakmas are a distinct tribes localized in the south-western part of Mizoram. This tribe belongs to Eastern group of the Indo-Aryan family whose dialect is Chakma, It is a corrupt form of the Bengali language written in corrupt Burmese-script. Risley, a noted Census Commissioner classified them in the group of the Mongolian racial types. The Chakmas emigrated from Arakan and then moved to Chittagong Hill Tracts (now Bangladesh) in the last quarter of 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Among other tribes (whose reference has been made earlier) the Hmar, Paite and Riang figure most on the demographic map of Mizoram. The Riangs are mostly in the north-west part of Mizoram along the Tripura border, while, the Hmars and the Paite are in the north-east corner of Mizoram. Similarly, the Pangs, Bawms, and Tlanglau are in the south and south-eastern part of Mizoram, mostly in the Poi and the Chakma areas.

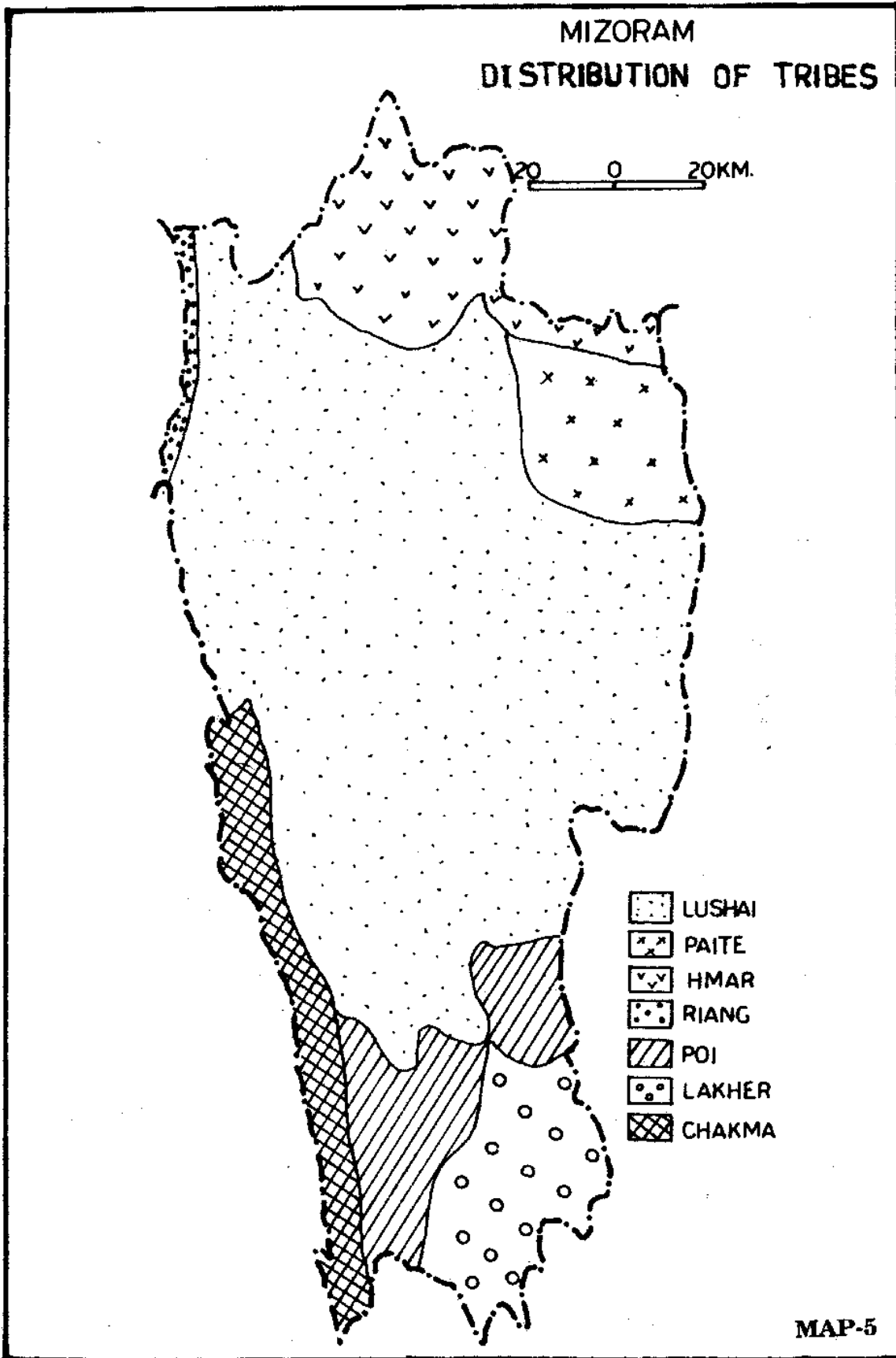
Thus, different tribes and sub-tribes came down to the present Mizoram, in successive waves and settled down in different parts of the present Mizoram. (see Map 5). However, the settle life was disturbed by perpetual fear of raid and inter-tribal feuds. The advent of the

British rule and the Missionaries activities implanted a sense of love, value, sacrifice, in their minds. Even then, inter-tribal raids and feuds did not stop.

The tea plantation in Cachar started in 1855 and within a short period, the southern part of Cachar bordering the Lushai Hills was covered by tea plantation. The British took interest in its expansion on vast commercial line. This created a misunderstanding among the Lushais and they looked at these efforts a step to encroach their hunting ground and eventually usurpation of their territory. The response of the inhabitants was in the form of frequent raids and kidnapping.

Thus, since 1842, there had been repeated raids by the Lushais on the neighbouring villages in Cachar, Manipur and Sylhet District. Kochubari, a Manipur village in Sylhet was attacked by Lilsuktala, a chief on April 10, 1844 in which 20 men were killed. The punitive expedition led by Capt. Blackwood vanquished the raider. Again, in 1849, atrocities were committed by the chief Vompilal at Rupcherra village 16 km. from Silchar and 29 men were killed. Col Lister took punitive action in Jan. 1850 resulting into death of 46 men and destruction of the village of the chief. In 1860 Rothangpuia, a chief raided a village in Tripura and killed 186 men. This led to an expedition by Capt. Rabon in 1861. Again in January 1862, the Lushaisransacked three villages (Ram Dulal's bari, Ram Mohan's bari and Chandraipara) in Sylhet which was popularly known as Adampur Massacre. Again, the tea gardens of Nawarbund, Katlicherra and Alexandrapur were attacked in January 1871 resulting in the death of many people. The British Authority realised that mere negotiation with the Lushais which was going on between the Lushais and the British authority would not serve the purpose, and the commercial interest of many British planters would suffer.

Hence, it was decided to send a strong punitive expeditionary force to Lushai Hills to stop raids by the Lushais.



### **Lushai Expedition (1871-72)**

The first expedition of 1869 failed miserably. This was followed by another expedition in 1871-72. (on July 11, 1871). One column advanced from the north i.e. from Cachar, the other from Chittagong side. The Cachar column moved onward from Tipaimukh and overpowered the Lushai Chief, Poiboi and moved forward to finally reach Champhai, where a settlement was made with the chief. Accordingly, the Government was given free access to Lalbura village.

The Chittagong column, following the course of Karnfuli river via Demagiri, moved upward. On the way, the column stormed upon Lengura and Vantura chief and destroyed Savunga and Lalgura villages. The aim of the expedition was not the annexation of the Lushai Territory nor retaliation but to strengthen the former policy of conciliation. The Lushais were forced to surrender and recognize the superior power of the British. The backbone of the Eastern Lushai Chief was broken. The western Lushais made friendship with British and worked as the gateman in Southern Frontier. The Kukis of Cachar became fearless from Poiboi. Trade relation with the Lushais was restored and bazaars were set up by the British. (Chansil, Bazarghat) etc. Annual Durbar of the Lushai chiefs was also arranged.

### **Lushai Expedition (1888-89)**

During the Burmese war (1885-86), the British took precautionary measure to prevent disturbances, likely to occur in the Lushai Hills. Accordingly, three officers namely, Lt. Stewart, Baird and J. Shakespear were deputed to survey the frontiers in the south. In course of work, Stewart and two other soldiers were killed by Hausat, at a place 20 miles from Rangamati. This enraged the British and compelled them to take punitive action against the Lushais. Col. Tregear, and Capt. J. Shakespear were in charge of the expedition. The column moved forward and burnt the village of Hausata and a fort at Lunglei was established. A durbar was arranged in which Howlongs chiefs expressed their loyalty to the British. But this brought only a temporary peace. Later, a section of the inhabitants reactivated their raids in the adjacent plain area. This led to another expedition known as Chin-Lushai expedition of 1889-90 which was operated from Silchar and Chittagong.

The main objectives of the expedition were:

- i) To punish the tribe which committed depredation in the British Territory.
- ii) To subjugate the tribe and make them loyal.



- iii) To explore and open out as yet only partly known country lying between Chittagong and Burma.
- iv) To establish posts in the region as to ensure complete pacification and the recognition of the British power.

The expedition moved from Demagiri to Fort Lunglei. Patrol road between the two places was made and field telegraph lines were laid down (which was extended later into Haka in Burma). The expedition was successful in punishing chiefs who were responsible for Chengri Valley raid. The Military outposts were set up at Aizawl and Changsil. Fort tregear was established and political officer were appointed at Aizawl and Lunglei with a view to controlling the Lushais.

Thus all the principal tribes of the North and South Lushai Hills were brought under control. The Chin-Lushai expedition of 1888-89 became the landmark and a turning point in the history of Lushai Hills. Accordingly, a unit of administration was established under the province of Assam with headquarters as Aizawl. Capt. Browne was appointed political officer of North Lushai Hills on April 1, 1890. The South Lushai Hills was created a separate district in 1891 with headquarters at Lunglei under Chittagong division of Bengal and was placed under a political officer. The officers were instructed not to interfere with the Lushais in their internal affairs. But they were asked to keep watch on their movements and intention from outside so that prompt action could be taken in case of adverse situation.

Thus the whole drama of British expedition ended in complete subjugation of the Lushais, one by one. The chiefs realized that it would be futile to fight against the British force which was superior in all respects. The British policy of retaliation (burning and destruction of villages) was recast. The chiefs agreed to pay royalty and accepted British domination. Finally, amalgamation of two units of administration was made and the administration of the entire district was brought under the jurisdiction of the Assam Government. The Chin Hills Regulation Act of 1896 was imposed which put restriction on the movement of outsiders in Mizoram. This marked the beginning of stability in the area.

These development thus suggest that the Mizo society was acomplex and conflict-ridden society which was composed of various tribes and sub-tribes, prominent among them being Lusei, (Tables 3&4) Paite, Ralte, Hmar, Pois (Pawis) and Lakhers. However, their geography and environment revealed a remarkable parallelism with the fundamentals. The dominating Sailo sub-tribe had capacity to absorb the culture of other groups and sub-tribes

under the persistent external influence. The spatial distribution of the tribes and sub-tribes gave an indication of the fact that the Sailo group had occupied the central position in the Mizo tribal hierarchy and thereby it was capable of preserving the tradition, similarity and identity. The entire group has adopted Sailo dialect as common lingua-franca.

Thus the demographic pattern and nature of social relations in the reveal the significant impact of the geographical phenomena. It also highlights the importance of economic activities in influencing the pattern of inter and intra-group relations among the inhabitants of the State. These aspects

## CHAPTER-II

### **EVALUATION OF BOUNDARY OF MIZORAM**

The evolution of boundaries of Mizoram is one of the important aspects that enables one to understand the intricacies involved in understanding the geopolitical viability or otherwise, of the State. In more than one way, the boundary making process (definition, delimitation and demarcation) has revealed the underlying problems that had to be resolved. These problems remained dormant as long as the colonial power had retained its control over the sub-continental affairs. With its withdrawal, the inherent centrifugal forces with persistent regularity. The potent discontentment in the demarcation of boundaries of the State was the division of the Kuki-Chin (of which Mizo is sub-group) group of people between more than one State.

If one takes recourse to historical process and pattern of migration, it becomes clear that the Kuki-Chin group, of which the Mizos are a part, has been variously distributed in the vast region. Gradual extension of British administration and the recognition of territories of the traditional rulers and areas, such as that of Manipur, Cachar and Tripura, gave very little latitude for any extension of the limits. Moreover, the inhabitants of the present day Mizoram had territory that was characterized by village republics. Each of these republics, representing a distinct clan or sub-clan, occupied specific areas. These areas were characterized by:

- 1) Village settlement or homestead lands,
- 2) Jhum lands, and
- 3) Hunting grounds.

At the time of boundary delimitation, it was the traditional hunting grounds of the respective villages and population groups and sub-groups that were affected.

In this regard, it may be noted that commercial activity in the form of establishment of tea plantations in Cachar closely followed the colonial consolidation of the region. As many of the plantations seemingly encroached upon the traditional hunting grounds, the respective villages and clans of the Kuki-Chin group retaliated by raids and kidnappings. These included reaction in the form of expeditions that brought the entire Lushai hills under British control. Once this was achieved, the process of boundary delimitation and demarcations was initiated so as to safeguard colonial, commercial and strategic interests in this part of the frontier of British empire in India.

Before going into details of boundary formations in the State, it is better to highlight the salient aspects of conceptual developments that are relevant to the present study.

The major boundary concepts can be identified as:

1. Natural boundary concepts.
2. Nationality and boundary concepts.
3. Imperialism and boundary concepts.
4. Contractual concept of boundaries.
5. The Geometric boundary concept.
6. Power-politics boundary concept.

### **The Natural Boundary Concept**

The natural boundary concept is the most common applicable concept of boundary demarcation since the beginning of the civilization. The concept has been highlighted by Pounds (Norman J.G. Pounds 'The Origin of the Idea of Natural Frontier in France. *Annals, Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 41 pp. 145-57). Accordingly, the natural course of mountains, rivers, forests, and watershed are applied while demarcating the boundary of a State.

### **Nationality and Boundary Concepts**

As a reaction of the concept of natural boundary, this concept was propounded. This is based on the principle of nationality. Fichte, a German scholar, admitting the notion of natural law stressed upon the common language and culture which according to him, seemed higher than that of rivers and mountains (H.J.D. Blij, *Systematic Political Geography*, p. 233). In this connection, it would not be out of place to mention the view of Cobbon that

national self-determination is inherent in nationalism. This principle is mainly responsible for altering the boundaries of states of Europe after the First World War. (Alfred Cobban (1951) *National Self-Determination*, University of Chicago Press, pp. 5-6)

### **Imperialism and Boundary Concept**

According to this concept, boundary stability is denigrated in a sense that it is an effort to limit the growth of a living thing. Imperialism looks upon world-wide sense of a space for the sake of exploitation. The State is likely an organism which develops, in a natural way.

Ratzel had studied the frontier or boundary and observed that the frontier was peripheric organ of the state and the bearer of its growth, its security, conforming to all changes of the state organism. (Ratzel, *Die Gastze Des Vanmlchan Wachatums der staatem*, p. 234).

### **Contractual Concepts of Boundaries**

This concepts is based on the theory of state in which a contract is made between the rules and the ruled. This has been applied to explain a wide variety of institutions. According to this concepts, two countries agree on a line and follow the line of boundary in their mutual intercourse.

### **The Concept of Geometric Boundaries**

The simple boundary pattern has been adopted in the USA, Canada, Australia and in some other parts of the world. The common use of rivers as boundaries was ignored. It was adopted for the practical matters of explratio9n, transportation and cartography. It is virtually based on geodetic mechanism upon which geometrical lines can be drawn as boundary line.

### **Power-Politics Boundary Concept**

This concept has been propounded by Boggs and Haushofer. The environment in which Haushofer revolved his boundary concepts was surcharged with political turmoil (S.W. Boggs, *Inter-national Boundaries*). The defeat of Germany in 1<sup>st</sup> World War brought humiliation and loss of territory. His boundary concept is summed up in his own words: "A biological battlefield in the life of the people in the realm of power politics, boundary lines are made as truce line as dictated by the powerful states." Spykman based his concept of

boundary on his idea of power (N.J. Spykman, *American Strategy in World Politics Frontier Security*). According to him, boundary is not only a line demarcating legal system but also a line of contract of territorial power structure. He also pointed out specific boundary at any given historical period became, then, merely the politico-geographic expression of the existing balance of forces at the period.

Holdich and Lyde, renowned geographers, held opinion that boundaries were like barriers or bouns and the best boundaries (i.e. those least likely to be the causes of war) must be mountains, lakes or deserts, while lines of longitude and latitude are bad boundaries. Bringham also emphasized the boundary as 'economic equilibrium'. He abserved that the forces of nationalism created smaller states in Europe while economic forces demanded big states.

Thus, keeping in view the growth and development of concept in boundary studies, it is clear that as far as Mizoram was concerned, its boundaries showed remarkable parallels to the natural features. For example, its boundary with all its neighbours (national as well as international) indicates the close adherence to natural features such as river courses or mountain ranges. Even within the State, the administrative divisions like district, sub-division and the Community Development Blocks indicate remarkable similarity. The internal features of this was reinforced by the facts of dispersed nature of settlement.

British territorial expansion more or less followed the strategic and commercial perspective and also the consolidation of empire in the Indian sub-continent. In the process, they came into contact with people and area which were totally different and subject to local and regional conditions. The colonial administrators, bypassing the traditional arrangements of territorial units, contemplated on specific boundary agreements with the people, who later became their subjects. However, boundary delimitation between those units assumed significance not only in politico-economic relations but also in inter and intra-relations within and outside the states. These agreements for the first time recognised the limits of the various people of the region. It also became a recognisable territory with defined action-space that (subject to the policy direction) either remained within or outside the purview of Imperial development perspectives and priorities. Later, after Independence these territorial boundary transactions either became source of dispute between states or became responsible for the pattern of development. Thus its analysis along development of territorial jurisdiction of the State of Mizoram.

## Relevant Background

The evolution of the boundaries of Mizoram is closely associated with the early migration of the Mizo tribes (see also chapter 2). In the absence of adequate historical evidence, the early evolution of the boundary has been based on generalisation. The Mizos migrated from the south-eastern part of Hunan province of China and came to the territory of Burma in the early part of 15<sup>th</sup> century A.D. They lived at Tlangkha, north of Falam (Chin Hills in Burma). They were the descendants of Thangura. From him, sprang six lines of (Thangura) Chiefs – Rokhum, Zadeng, Thangluah, Palian, Rivung and Sailo. Being economically hard pressed, all these chiefs and their followers moved westward in search of better livelihood and suitable land for agriculture. They were superior and stronger than the early settlers and hence, they easily drove them further west north. These people, who were driven out in the extreme north, were the old Kukis. Thus, these six lines of Thangura Chief became the masters of the territory and spread over a territory which was not properly recorded at that time.

It appears from the above observations that the Mizo settlers spread over the entire mountainous terrain, east of Tripura Hills. But the boundary did not follow any geographical parameter, and hence, it was vague. No body thought of making final demarcation in this respect. As matter of fact, the entire region which was inhabited by the Lushais and other tribes was unadministered and the necessity of demarcation was not thought upon. This was reinforced by large scale dispersion of Mizo population. The inter-tribal disputes among Mizo tribes were common. They were virtually independent. But the folklores of Mizo speak of Rajas of the Vai people (Vai means outsider, i.e. non-Mizo). These Rajas were the feudal lords of Manipur, Tripura and Rangamati. Thus, it appears that the three feudal areas have influenced development in the State. The Manipur Maharaja's territorial control extended up to the northern boundary of Mizoram i.e. Jiribam area of Manipur which sheltered the Hmar tribe. The Tripura Raja extended his control up to the large areas Hill tribes, east of the Tripura Hills. The Tripura Raj comprised of the British districts of Chittagong, Noakhali, Tippera, Cachar, the Garo-Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Lushai land and Chittagong Hill Tracts. In Pemberton's report, it is shown that all the Lushai countries, situated south of Cachar belonged to the Tripura Raj. He stated that the independent Tripura territories extended up to Tipaimukh. It appears, however, that the links were comparatively weak. The following statement quoted from Reid makes the point clear.

From the report of Pemberton, it appears that the Lushai country east of Tripura rulers but Mackenzie observed that Tripura's authority over the Lushai had never been settled or was absolute. The Lushai acknowledged no allegiance to the Raja of Tripura, is certain.

The Mizo had no connection with the Ahoms who ruled Assam from the first quarter of 13<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of second quarter of 19<sup>th</sup> century through Ahoms had vast contact with the Hills areas of Assam (Map 10). But they had close contact with tribes living

in the Chin Hills of Burma because, it was the same place from where the Mizos had migrated to the present territory. The Mizos had no peaceful and cordial relation with the neighbouring areas of Cachar, Sylhet, Tipperah, Chittagong and Manipur.

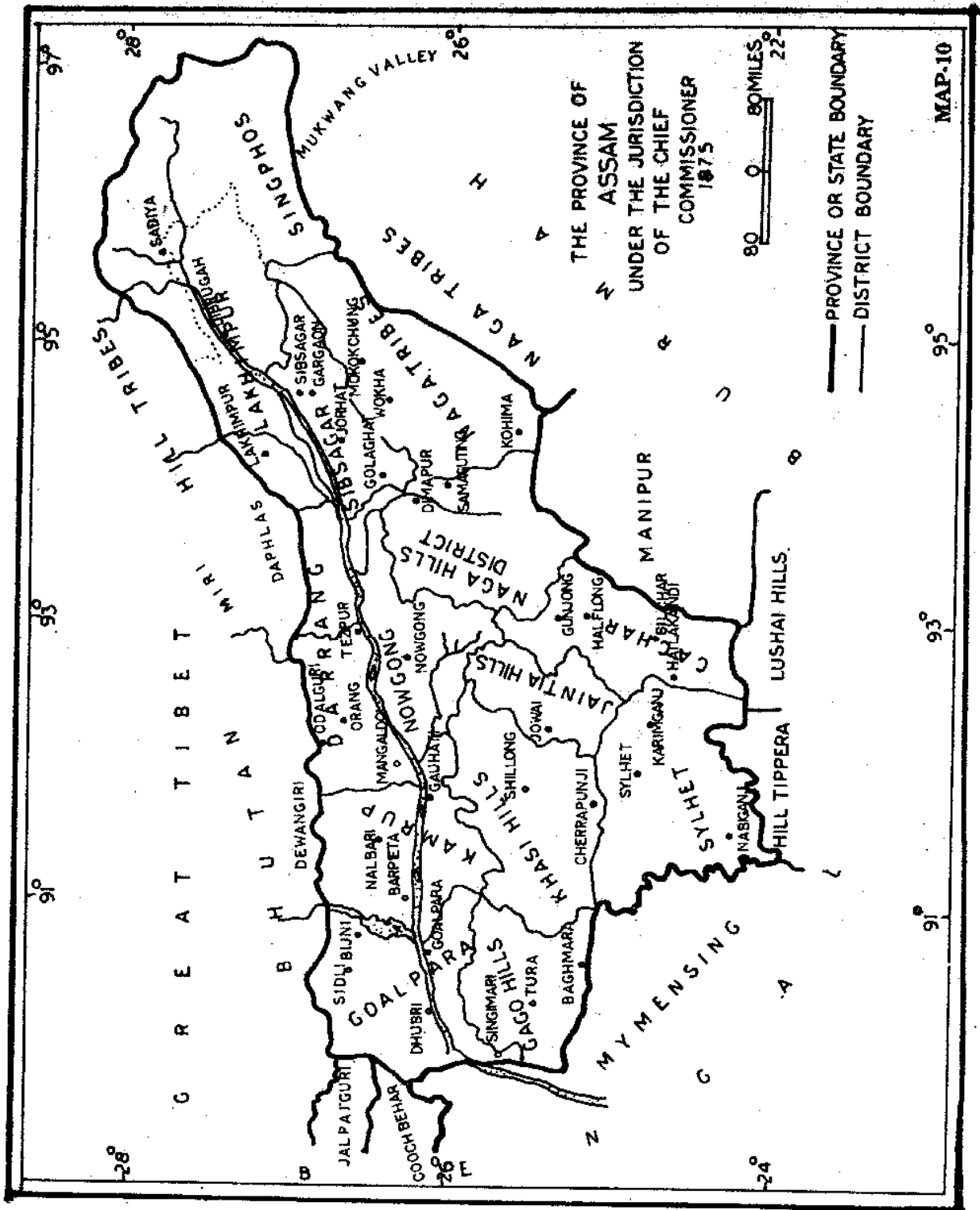
It was evident that beyond Tipperah (Tripura), the Raja had no absolutely power over these migratory tribes. The then Government of Bengal considered the raiders to live in territory controlled nominally by the Raja of Tipperah, and did not pay any revenue but only present of elephant's tusks and other commodities. The Kachubari raid of 1844 forced the British to seriously consider the security of the British frontier. Thus, the Government of Bengal asked the Raja of Tripura to return to Kachubari captives, and to produce the culprits before the British authorities at Sylhet. From all the evidences, the Government of Bengal concluded the de facto independent status of the Pytoo and Kuki areas as well as about the loose hold of the Raja of Tripura on the Pytoo tribes. Thus, the misconception of the British administrators regarding the control of Maharaja of Tripperah over the tribals of the eastern part including the Lushai Hills was cleared. They decided to tackle the situation independently.

So long as the Lushais were calm and quite within their natural surroundings and were leading an independent life, the British administrators were least bothered but the frequent raids and atrocities on the British subjects in southern plains of Cachar and Sylhet compelled the administrators to contemplate on controlling the situation.

The commercial tea-plantation suffered a major setback due to frequent Lushai raids. Thus, the expedition of 1871 induced the British authority to demarcation was vague and imaginary. The successive development of the boundaries between the Lushai Hills and the British India is systematically described below.

From 1847 onwards, raids were carried out repeatedly by the Lushais on villages in Cachar, Manipur and Sylhet area. Prior to such raids, the southern frontier in Cachar was vague. The British authority realised the necessity of boundary delimitation between the British territory and the Lushai country. Edgar, the then Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, managed to reach an agreement with a powerful Lushai Chief Sukpilal and a 'Sand' was signed on January, 14, 1871 in a village called Punchangkai, down Sonai Valley which is the landmark in the history of British rule in the Lushai Hills. The boundary line according to this Sanad was as follows.

In order to observe the sanctify of the boundary, the leader of the survey party suggested a new boundary between Cachar and Lushai hills. The Government of Assam strictly adhered to the boundary settled in 1871. Reopening on the matter was considered to be politically risky because any alteration of the 'Sanad' would lead to misunderstanding and suspicion of the Chiefs.





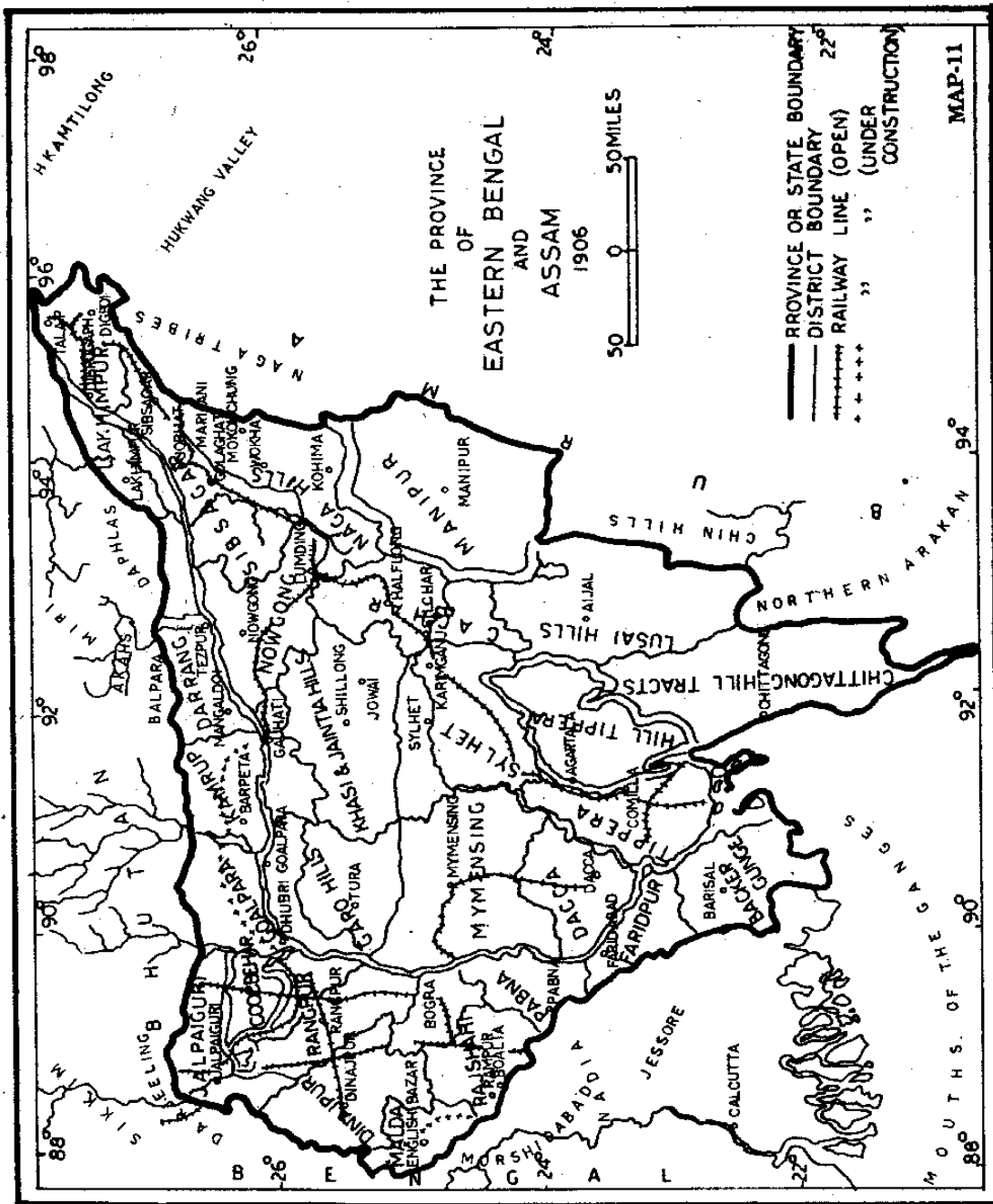
## **Boundary Settlement after the Expedition**

Before the Lushai expedition of 1871-72, the topography of the Lushai country was unknown to the British. The boundaries in many cases were imaginary or vaguely defined. As such, the order of Governor-General-in-Council was given to take a survey party in each expedition column. These parties made commendable work. They topographically surveyed 6500 sq. miles of new and difficult country and filled up the detailed geographical information in the survey map. They surveyors recommended the new boundary on the basis of fresh survey, which were :

1. From the Blue mountain in the latitude of 22° 31' N to 23° 22' N, the frontier line passes through a country which is inhabited by the Howlong and Syloo Tribes, who until the last year owed no allegiance to the British Government.
2. From Pookling to Cachar, the boundary of Chittagong Hill Tracts and of the Hill Tripura traverses a region almost wholly unknown to the English. Tanner, Dy. Superintendent of Revenue Survey, urged to discard the former boundary altogether, for it had never had any existence except on papers. Tanner also proposed the connection of Chittagong Hill Tracts with Cachar, after the readjustment of the boundary. Edger also submitted in his memorandum in connection with boundary that: It was difficult to delimit the western boundary of Sukpial. He said that he had no influence in the west of the range on which Chattachura was situated. The Tripura Raja, but the eastern boundary of the Tripura Raja's territory was uncertain. According to Pemberton and others, the independent Tripura territory extend up to Tipaimukh. Little earlier than this, the independent Tripura was redesignated as Hill Tripura and this created a confusion between all the Hills (as the area between the south Cachar and Chittagong Hill Tracts seemed to have been of about the same time included in Cachar District). It was suggested that the watershed that divides from Cachar (down south). The Kukis of these places belong chiefly to Darlong and Pytoo families. The Darlong inhabited the area on the south and Pytoo near the Sylhet.

A well defined boundary line was all the more necessary for administrative convenience. Most of the recommendations of the boundary demarcation parties were accepted by the Government of India. The recommendations related to the eastern boundary of Hill Tripura, boundary between Cachar and the Lushai Hills, and that between Chittagong Hill Tracts and Lushai Hills. Defence of the frontier remained the primary consideration in drawing the boundary.

The notification of 1875 framed under the Section V of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873 sought to demarcate the Lushai Hills frontier from the plains of Cachar (This was to locate the boundary of the police outpost set up during the British expedition





against the Lushai in 1881. The extracts of the two notifications of 1875 and 1933 were included in the appendices II and III separately). These appendices made the points clear. Under these notifications, the boundary line started from a few miles north of Jhalnacherrakhal to the top of the range of Hills immediately to the east of the Khal and culminated in the northern direction to the Baruncherra grant. (Map 12)

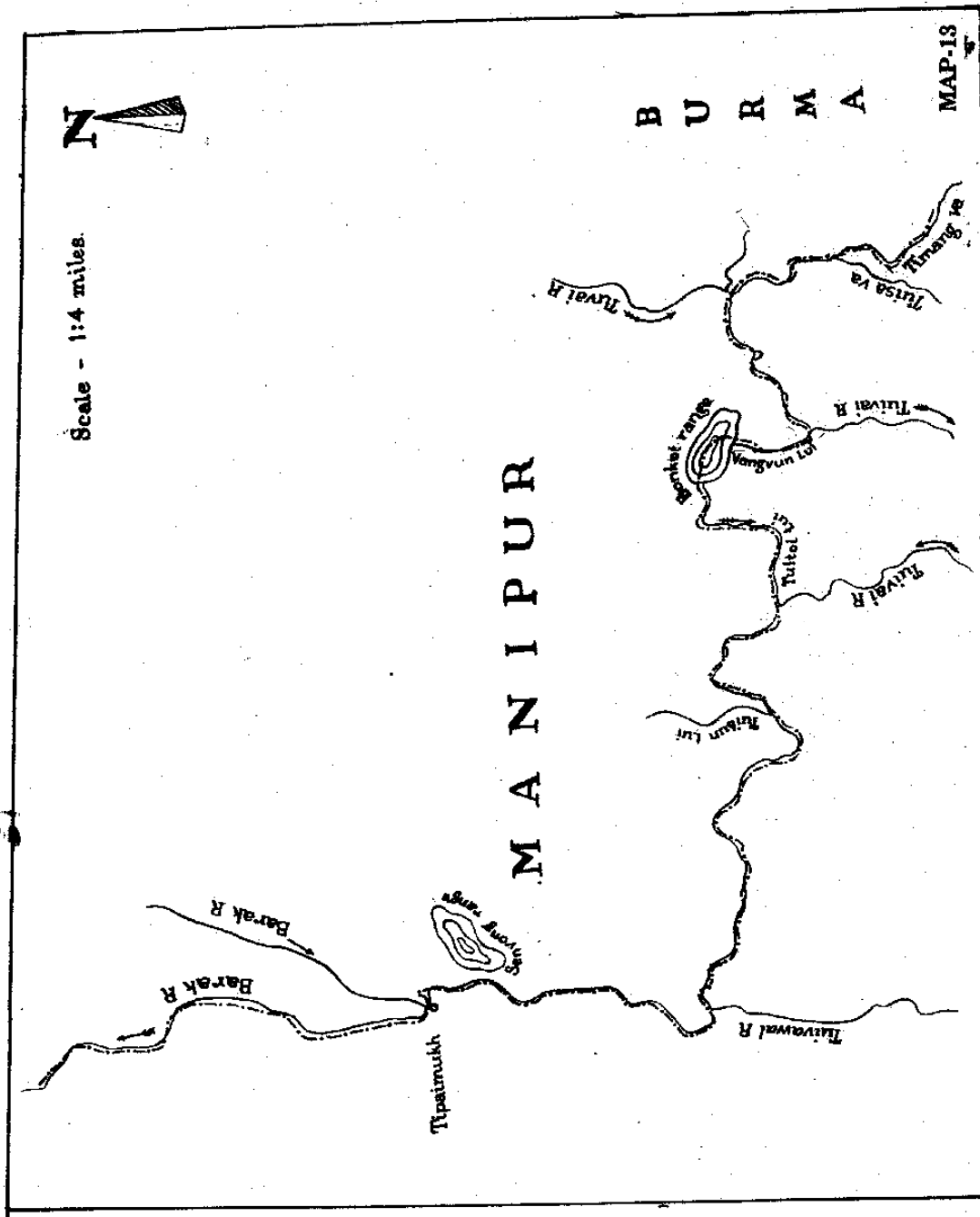
The boundary line then, traversed in a easterly direction till the Rengti Pahar range, from the western branch of Rengti Pahar, as far as the source of the Jalinga and then traversed along Jalinga river to the south-east corner of the Sonacherra grant. The line followed the eastern boundary of Sonacherra and Noarbund grant to a road along a police outpost, then to Rukni river, and then in a south easterly direction to the western boundary of the Monierkhal grant, the boundary line finally trend west and south to the river Sonai then to Mainadhar and then following the western grant to the river Barak.

### **Mizoram – Manipur Boundary**

Boundaries are most sacrosanct upon which the future of the nation depends. These are like a razor's edge on which are suspended the modern question of war or peace, of life or death for nations. <sup>18</sup> Ill-defined boundary had always been the cause of border trouble in the Lushai Hills (now Mizoram). But before the specification of the tribes, it was almost impossible to complete the task of boundary settlement and delimitation. The Governor-General-in-Council, after the Chin-Lushai conference, recommended the demarcation of boundaries of the Lushai Hills. Accordingly, the Government of India set up a Boundary Commission headed by P.Maxwell and H.W.G.Cole to demarcate the boundary between the Lushai Hills and Manipur.<sup>19</sup> From January 22 to February 9, 1900 the Commission was engaged in the field work and made an extensive survey of the Lushai country adjoining the Manipur state. The Commission reviewed considerable information about the area from the Chin-Manipur Boundary Commission of 1898. But the Commissioner detected the error of the earlier Commission relating to the highest peak in the Lungling Hill. After the completion of the survey, the Commission submitted the following report on the boundary alignment.

“The boundary commences at the junction of the Tuivai river with the Barak river, known as Tipaimukh, there is a revenue survey pillar on the left bank of the Tuivai, about 50 yards to the south west of the junction, which marks the trijunction point of the Manipur State, Cachar and Lushai Hills district.”<sup>20</sup> (Map 13)

Proceeding up the Tuivai round Senvail Hill and under Babarchang Hills, the boundary followed the course of the river until it receives its tributary, the Tui-Toi stream, thence up the Tuitoi stream to one of its sources at a saddle known as Bongkot, where a boundary pillar has been erected, thence crossing to the east side of this saddle down a stream, which is one of the sources of the Vang-Vun Lui and continuing down this latter



stream until, it falls into the Tuivai river. Thence again up the Tuivai river, flowing north of Chepui Hill, and following the course of this river until it receives the Tuikesi stream, north west of Lungleh Hill. Thence up the Tuikui stream to its course below boundary pillars of the Manipur-Chin boundary, situated on a saddle about four miles east of Lungleh Hill, where the Tuivai river is the boundary. The left bank is the boundary of the Lushai Hills and the right bank that of Manipur<sup>21</sup> (Appendices II - III).

The Government of India accepted the new boundary line between the Manipur State and the Lushai Hills as demarcated by the Maxwell Commission and this boundary continues to be valid till date.

### **Manipur and Lushai Hills (Mizoram) Boundary (Vide Notification of 1933)**

As per notification of 1933, the Manipur boundary with Mizoram begins from the trijunction of Lushai Hills, Cachar district of Assam, and Manipur State. From here, Rundung river follows the downward stream of Barak, and reaches to a place near Tipaimukh where the river Tuivai from Mizoram side meets. From Tipaimukh, the junction point of the Tuivai and Barak river, the boundary line follows midstream of Tuivai river up to the confluence of Tuitoi line with Tuivai and then moving upward along the source of Tuitoilui, the line crosses the saddle Bangkot and then moves along the Vangvumlui southward, till it meets Tuivai and moving the midstream of Tuivai in upstream side, the boundary line meets Tuisa river (Appendix III).

This boundary demarcation was virtually on the same line as recommended by the Commission headed by P.Maxwell and H.W.G.Cole that delimited the boundary between the Lushai Hills and Manipur as referred earlier in the Chapter.

### **Mizoram – Burma Boundary : Chin – Lushai Hills Boundary**

Although the Manipur-Lushai boundary demarcation was made no doubt, but the problem between the Chin Hills and the Lushai district remained untouched. This was seriously thought upon. Formerly, the south Lushai district had close connections with the Chin Hills administration. Both the Administrations accepted Tyao river as their boundary. But the boundary between the North Lushai Hills and Chin Hills was never delimited. The boundary adjustment between the Chin Hills and the Lushai Hills became all the more important after the incorporation of Kaboo Valley of Manipur in Burma. With the fall of the Eastern Lushais in 1882, the Government of Assam initiated the matter in this regard. But the revolt of Manipur in 1891 as well as law and order problems in Chin Hills and Lushai Hills during the period compelled postponement of the decision regarding boundary delimitation. The Government of India entrusted the task to a Boundary Commission in 1901. W.C.M.Dundas and A.C.Bateman who were members submitted the following report:

The boundary commences at the confluence of the Tuipai and Tuisa streams. There is a pillar on the left bank of Tuisa and 5 yards from the confluence of Lushai and Chin Hills. The boundary now goes up the stream of the Tuisa where Tuimang meets. This direction is due north and south, thence, up the Tuimong to a point, where its tributary, the Bapuului meets it, finally up the Bapuului to its new source below a pillar market on Vai-Khohmun, which is also the source of the Tyao, the recognised boundary between the Chin Hills and the Lushai Hills district.

The readjustment of the boundary in 1901 completed the hitherto incomplete tasks of the Government. This boundary is now the recognised international boundary between India and Burma.

### **Eastern Boundary of Mizoram (S to N)**

The river Wabling moving towards east joins Kheimu stream; the Kheimu stream to its source on the Kahria or Kwahria (Khasis) Klang, thence south along the crest of the Kahria or (Kwahriaytlang) to the source of the Raphuva, which joins Boinu (Koladyn) river; thence down the midstream of the Boinu (Kaladan) river to its junction with the Tyao; thence the midstream of the Tyao to its source on the Viko Tlang; thence down the midstream of the Tuimang to its junction with the Tuisa; down the midstream of the Tuisa to its junction with Tuivai river to its junction with the Vangvumlui.<sup>24</sup> This completes the eastern boundary of Mizoram (between Mizoram and Burma).

### **Mizoram – Assam (Cachar) Boundary**

*Cachar (Assam) Lushai Hills Boundary Adjustment:* After the demarcation of the Chin Hills and Lushai Hills boundary, the task of delimitation was almost completed except for the rectification of the boundary between the Cachar district and Lushai Hills district. The matter was brought to the notice of the Government of India by Fuller, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, in 1903. He informed that the Cachar-Lushai Hills boundary which was given in the Chief Commissioner's notification on June 24, 1875, though somewhat vague in its terms, was formally sufficient for practical purposes. Since the pacification, the Lushais had been moving northward towards the plains of Cachar.

Frequent questions regarding the boundary had consequently arisen, especially in connection with the felling of timber along the different rivers which cross it. The settlement of land near the boundary had been delayed because of the uncertainty as to the land to which it belonged. This caused inconvenience to the operation of land settlement undertaken by Shakespear in 1898-99. The Chief Commissioner advocated a revision and a more scientific demarcation of the boundary. He proposed to transfer a tract which geographically belonged to the Lushai Hills and which contained some Lushai hamlets.<sup>25</sup> Fuller pointed out that this tract was a resort for the Lushais who were discontented with their Chiefs and who escaped from the control of the Superintendent of the Lushai Hills. This tract was traversed by the road from Silchar to Aizawl, the maintenance of which was exceedingly difficult for the Silchar authorities, whereas under the Lushai system of administration, it was comparatively easier. Part of the tract that was included in the reserved forest was known as Inner Line Reserve. Thus, the control of the Forest Department would not be affected by the shifting of the forest lands from Cachar to the Lushai Hills. (Map 14)

The southern boundary of Cachar since the time of Edgar's treaty with Sukpial (1870) had been more or less based on political considerations than on geography. The Chief Commissioner proposed the connection of the vague southern line of the Cachar boundary. Two alternative lines were suggested. One to the north running from the west of the Chhattachura or Sidheswar-Sirispur Range down the Bhagchurra stream to its junction with the Dhaleswari rivers; the other to the south running from the east of the same range and down a tributary of the Pakwa stream where it joins the Dhaleswari.<sup>27</sup>

Fuller pointed out that the northern line would exclude from Cachar district some land suitable for rice cultivation, so he preferred the southern line. He further, submitted that the boundary adjustment did not merely, involve a transfer and tract of land from Cachar to Lushai Hills but it also involved two smaller but additional tracts from Lushai Hills to be transferred to Cachar (Map 14). The proposed transfer might lead to some legal difficulties and problems because they affected the jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court. Both the Governments of Assam and the Centre came to the conclusion that the readjustment of the Cachar-Lushai Hills boundary was necessary, but the main obstacle in this respect emerged from the Indian High Courts Act, 1865. Later, the Governor – General agreed to the transfers in the greater political and strategical interests. Accordingly, the Governor General-in-Council approved the proposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam and sanctioned the transfer of tract of land from Cachar to Lushai Hills and two smaller tracts from the latter to the former.<sup>28</sup>

Normally, local, national or international boundaries are modified by the geographical environment, economic consideration and political pressure. In Mizoram, the geographical factors (like rivers and mountains) got priority over the other two. Economic considerations were never thought seriously. However, the British administrators sometimes, considered the strategic importance of the eastern frontiers of India, besides her colonial interest and prosperous tea industry in Cachar. The detailed description of the boundary of Mizoram bears testimony to the fact that the political elements, and not geographical, played a decisive role in demarcation of the boundary.

Delimitation of the boundary of Mizoram (earlier Lushai Hills district) was modified subsequently, as per Government notification 1933 (Appendix III). Accordingly, the present boundary stands as follows.<sup>29</sup>

#### **Northern Boundary (Cachar) and Mizoram (Earlier Lushai Hills) – (From W to E)**

The northern boundary begins from the trijunction point of the districts Sylhet (Old Assam), and Tripura East situated on the Lungai river nearly 1km south-west of the confluence of Medilicherra with Longai river. (Map 15). From this point, the boundary line runs in eastern direction along the Chhattachura range (Chhattachura peak 2071 ft.) and then



following the tributaries of the Pakwa (Teirei) river i.e. Tlaksihlui, Seveilui, and Kutkutilui to the downstream point where the river joins the Tlwang (Dhaleswari) river, and after crossing the river the line follows upstream of Bhairabichura up to its source and then crosses the Bhairabi range. From here, the boundary line runs downstream of Hmarluangpui till its confluence with Baruncherra and then moves along the midstream of Baruncherra till its junction with Chhimiunglui. It then, runs watershed and follows the downstream of Dholai river upto the trijunction point (where the boundary of Hailakandi-Silchar Sadar Sub-Division and Lushai Hills district meet).

From this trijunction point, the boundary line trends in south-eastern direction to a point where Rukni river receives Teidului and then follows the upstream of latter till its source and then, crosses Bongkong rang. It then, runs the downstream of Bagkhal (or Tuishan lui) till its confluence with Suanglawn lui, then the downstream of Suanglawn lui till it meets Tuirial (Sonai) river. The line then, follows the midstream of Tuirial river upto its junction with Teivangnek stream, then, it follows a small feeder to Teivang Mazlkhangtlang lui. After crossing the range it moves, again along the midstream of Lungkhulh, a tributary of Rundung lui, and then, follows midstream of this lui till it meets Barak river. (Rundung lui is the meeting point of Assam, Manipur and Mizoram).<sup>31</sup>

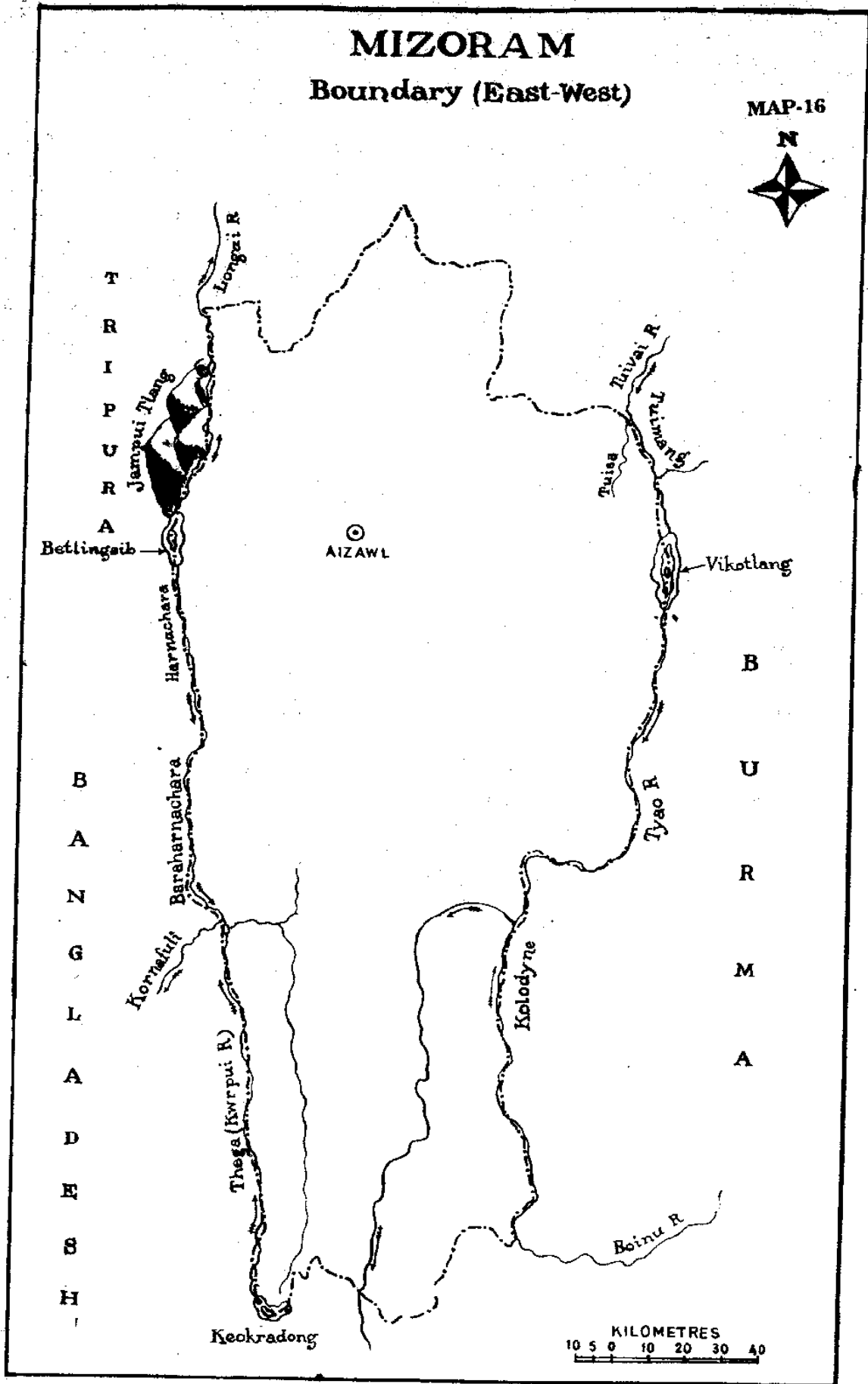
#### **Western Boundary of Mizoram (Between Tripura – Mizoram: From N to S)**

The boundary line drawn after the annexation of the Lushai Hills in 1904 follows the river route of the Longai Valley which passes through the Hochil and Jampui ranges and proceeds upto its source, then across the Dhlajem peak and then, by the recognised southern boundary of the Fenny river. (Map 16).

But, again, the boundary between Tripura and the Lushai Hills (Mizoram) was recast vide notification No.2107 AP dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 1933 (Appendix III). Accordingly, the boundary line starts from the trijunction of the Tripura, Assam (Karimganj) and Mizoram situated at Longai river which originates from the Jampuitlang range and flows in northern direction. The boundary line follows the upstream of the Longai river and then, its tributary, Sailutlui to its source Betlingsib peak (height 3033 ft.). The Boundary line then proceeds in southerly direction reaching to a Hill called Betling Peak (2234ft.) which is the Trijunction point of Tripura, Mizoram (earlier Lushai Hills) and Banladesh (earlier Chittagong Hill Tracts).

#### **Western Boundary of Mizoram(Bangladesh – Mizoram from North to South)**

From the Betling peak (which is the Trijunction point of Mizoram, Bangladesh and Tripura) the boundary line runs in the southerly direction for 2km. to a tributary of Tuilianpui river. (Map 16) Following the midstream of the tributary to its confluence with Tuilianpui.



The line goes down the stream of this river till its confluence with Mar river (which is the junction point of Aizawl and Lunglei District). (Map 15) The boundary line then, runs westward in a straight line to the source of Harina river and then, down the mid-stream of Harina river to its confluence with the Karnaphuli river. Following the mid-stream of this river till its confluence with the Thegakhal (Kwrpui river) the line runs in southerly direction till its junction with two other tributaries about five miles south –east of the height 2093ft. and 10km. north-west of Waibung Taung(3083 ft.). From here, the line proceeds in the south-easterly direction up to the slope for about 3km to the Waibung Taung range and then, in westerly, southerly and easterly directions respectively along the range of Waibung Taung peak about 3083ft. and then, in southerly direction to Keakradong which is the trijunction point of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Mizoram and North Arakan district (Burma).

### **Southern Boundary of Mizoram: Mizoram – Burma: (West to East)**

The boundary line starts from the trijunction point at Keokradong where India, Bangladesh and Burma meet. (Map 17). The boundary line then moves to the Rengtlang, thence, to the source of a small stream Varunglui or Mraikchanung till its confluence with Kolachaung (Sakullui) originating from the north by the side of Dumzaotlang. From here, the line follows the midstream of Sakullui to the North of the Khawtlang or Zyucha stream and then along the midstream of this river to its source, the Samaug or Kwiman range. From here, the line goes southward along stream (west Kumari) and then southward till it joins the Kolodyne (Chhimtuipui river) then straight across the Kolodyne river, and then, upstream of the east Kumari (This river joins the Kolodyne from the opposite direction) to the mouth of Khugza or Kwiman stream (also East Kumari) to its source in the Kaisitlang. From here, the line moves southward to the source of Rale or Shwelaik stream and then, downstream of the same river to the junction with Sulla and its junction with the Kaikhen or Khinkon stream then, upto midstream of the Kaikhen to the source of Paralui, then down the midstream of the Paralui to its junction with the Tishi Tuisi or Michang and Wablung. This completes the external boundary of Mizoram with Burma in the east and south, Manipur and Assam in the north and Tripura and Bangladesh in the west.

## **CHAPTER – III**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS IN MIZORAM**

#### ***District Administrative Machinery***

Prior to 1891 there was no regular administrative setup in the Lushai Hills District. It began in the year 1891, when the territory was divided in two administrative sub-divisions – North Lushai Hills under Assam Government and South Lushai Hills District under Bengal Government. The tracts known as Rutton Puiya villages including Demagiri in the Hill Tracts of Chittagong was also included within the South Lushai Hills and was placed under the



administration of Bengal Province. This status lasted for 7 years. In 1898, the Government of India decided to amalgamate the two sub-divisions into one.

Chin Lushai Hills conference of 1898 led the amalgamation of the two sub-divisions into one and named the Lushai Hills District. This district was brought under the administrative jurisdiction of Assam. The Lakher area of the Pawi-Lakher region called as Lakher Land came within the actual British control 30 years after the occupation of the Lushai Hills (there were frequent raids by the unadministered villages in the Lakher area on the administered villages in the southern border of the Lushai Hills). The Government decided to annex the territory but it was delayed due to raids and murders that took place in Lunglei sub-division. The Superintendent thought that the trouble in the area could be forestalled only when the unadministered areas could be brought fully under the British control.

### ***Baw Conference January 1922***

A meeting was held between district officers of Lushai Hills, Chill Hills and Arakan District at Village called Baw on determination of the boundary. Accordingly, the villages of the independent area were divided among the three districts. It was, however, felt that because of lack of communication facilities in the area, the full benefits of the settlement would not be obtained until the proposed road from Tuipang to the Kolodyne river was completed. Although the villages were taken over by the respective district authorities, no immediate arrangements were made for administration till 1924. The formal inclusion of the area under British territory took place in 1931 when, by notification, the Zolngling area south of Lushai Hills (which was formerly an area of political control of the British) was included in the province of Assam. Subsequently, all the laws and rules enforced in Lushai Hills District were extended to this area by the Assam Government.

Gradually, administration started taking roots in Lakher land. In 1938, McCall reported that the Lakhers came under control. The British Government later, decided to define the boundary unilaterally. Thus, the boundary of all the plain districts of Assam with neighbouring Hill areas inhabited by the tribes were determined by an 'Innerline' Regulations. This was done through section 2 of Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873. This regulation introduced the 'Innerline' concept and was applicable on the southern frontier of the Cachar District. Under the provision of the above section the Government prohibited all British subjects from going beyond the 'Innerline' without a pass from the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar.

### ***Circle System***

In 1901, an important feature of administration was introduced in Lushai Hills District. This was known as circle system. This system was introduced with a view to

exercising more effective control over the chiefs in order to strengthen the administrative control over the territory. The whole district was divided into 18 circles (12 in Aizawl Sub-division and 6 in Lunglei sub-division). Each circle was placed under the charge of a circle interpreter (CI). All orders of the Superintendent were transmitted through the interpreters and they were held responsible for carrying out of the orders by Chiefs and the people. They sent fortnightly report of all events occurring in the circle. The interpreters were the channels of communication between the chief and the people on the one hand, and the Superintendent or the sub-divisional officer on the other. The circle system, was, however, abolished subsequently, because the system undermined the authority of the chiefs.

### ***Lushai Hills District to Mizo Hills District***

During the pre-independence or in the beginning of post-independence period, there was psychological resentment among the local people over the nomenclature of the District (Lushai Hills) which signified the dominance of a particular tribe (Lushai) whereas other tribes like the Pawis, Lakhers, and other smaller tribes also have sizeable population. Accordingly, the nomenclature was changed from the Lushai Hills District to Mizo Hills District in 1954 by the Act of Parliament.

### ***The North – East Areas (Reorganisation) Act of 1971***

The political map of the entire North-East Region was changed with the passage of the North-east (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. Mizo Hills District was upgraded to the union territory status. The Territory, now consists of three districts namely, the Aizawl District, Lunglei District and Chhimtuipui District (comprising the Regional Council of Pawi-Lakher area). The Headquarters of the new districts were located at Aizawl, Lunglei and Saiha respectively.

In January 1975, four new sub-divisions in Aizawl district viz. Aizawl Sadar, Mamit(Hq. Mamit), Champhai (Hq. Champhai) and Kolasib (Hq.Kolasib); two in Lunglei district, i.e. Lunglei Sadar and Tlabung (Hq. Demagiri), and three in Chhimtuipui district i.e. Sadar (Saiha), Lawngtlai, Chawngte, were created both from administrative and political considerations. Thus, at present there are three districts and nine sub-divisions.

### ***Community Development Blocks***

Community Development Blocks like in other states were organized on all India pattern. In the beginning, there were six C.D.Blocks in Aizawl Sub-division, i.e. Aizawl, Kolasib, Mamit, Serchhip, Saitual and Champhai and three in Lunglei Sub-division i.e. Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Hnahthial (Table 29).

Gradually, the C.D.Blocks in the tribal areas were converted into Tribal Blocks under special scheme adopted by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1956, with an object to determine

the pattern of development suitable for tribal life. The object to determine was, to wean away the tribal people from the practice of shifting cultivation and to induce them to take to settled agriculture. Besides, it also aimed to facilitate public health, medical facilities, communication, education and art and craft.

Detailed of Community Development Blocks in Mizo District during third Five Year Plan are as follows. (Table 29).

Table 29: Details of Community Development Blocks in Mizo District during 3<sup>rd</sup> Five Year Plan

Sl. No	Total Population	Total Population	Tribal Population	P.C. of Tribal people to total population	Area of Block in sq. miles	Year of conversion as tribal Dev. Block
1.	Aizawl	30758	26,450	86	338	1961-62
2.	Kolasib	22548	21,466	95	1012	1962-63
3.	Pawi-Lakher	30515	30515	100	1230	1962-63
4.	Mamit	16350	16350	100	1187	1963-64
5.	Serchhip	20102	29102	100	1940	1964-65
6.	Lunglei	22473	22334	99	1230	
7.	Saitual	20591	20591	100	778	1965-66
8.	Champhai	22915	22915	100	612	1965-66
9.	Hnahthial	15810	15819	100	820	1965-66

Source: Report of the Study Team on Tribal Development Programme, Assam, Planning Commission, 1967 op.cit. N.C.Roy, Mizoram : Dynamics of Change, p-324.