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Institution and Effectiveness of Existing Administrative Mechanisms: A Case Study of Jiribam Sub-Division

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Abstract:

This paper tries to explore the administrative structure of Manipur with special reference to the administration of Jiribam when the British occupied Manipur and after they had left the place. It also tries to focus the changing scenario of Manipur in general and Jiribam in particular and also to highlight the administrative inconveniences of Jiribam, a sub-division of Manipur. Manipur was an independent kingdom from 33 AD to 1890. But, in the Anglo-Manipuri war of 1891, Manipur was defeated by the British. Thus, the whole administration was controlled by them abolishing the monarchical system of administration prevalent in Manipur. In 1947, India got her independence from the British and Manipur also became free from the British yoke. The first election of Manipur Legislative Assembly on adult franchise was held in 1948 under the Manipur State constitution Act 1947. According to this Act, the Legislative Assembly was consisted of 53 seats and Jiribam is one of the constituencies of Manipur. Then in 15th October 1949, Manipur was merged to the Indian Union. In 1972, she got the status of a state and Jiribam became a sub-division of Manipur Central district. Since Jiribam is located at a distance of 220 kilometers from her district Headquarter and also a non-contiguous part of the district many administrative inconveniences are being faced by the people of Jiribam. These inconveniences may be reduced if the sub-division is upgraded into a full-fledged revenue district.

Keywords: District administration, Panchayats, sub-division, Mouzadar

1. Introduction

India is organized administratively into union, states, districts, sub-divisions, blocks and villages. Of these, the basic territorial unit of public administration is the district. It is the unit of administration for various departments like revenue, police, judiciary, agriculture, animal husbandry, health and medical care, education, industry public relations, etc. which have their jurisdiction extending over the district. The district is therefore, a multifunctional unit of administration¹. Geographically, the district is divided into a number of units which are differently known as sub-divisions or revenue divisions or prants in some states of India. The official- in-charge of this unit also bears varieties of names called Sub-divisional Officer (SDO), Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Revenue Divisional Officer or Sub-Collector, Prant Officer (Deputy Collector or Assistant Collector) in different states of India². Like any other state of India, the state of Manipur also has district as administrative unit which is again divided into a number of administrative units as sub-divisions. Jiribam is also one of the sub-divisions of Imphal East district.

Therefore, this study makes an attempt to give an authoritative account of the administrative activities in Jiribam sub-division right from its existence. In Manipur different administrative units were in operation since long back. In a sub-division like Jiribam with its multifarious problems, the whole tasks of development and being welfare division in the state falls on the shoulder of the district administration.

2. Meaning of Administration and District Administration

“Administration” according to E.N.Gladen, “is a long and slightly pompous word, but it has a humble meaning, for it means to care for or to look after people, to manage affairs.” The word ‘administration’ has been derived from the Latin words ‘ad’ and ‘ministiare’ which means to serve. In simple language it means the ‘management of affairs’ or ‘looking after people’³.

Generally, the meaning of district administration is the management of the task of Government so far as it lies within an area legally recognized as a district. This task is of five kinds viz, revenue, magisterial, judicial, executive and development. According to Khera “District Administration” is the total functioning of government in a district; the total and complex organization of the management of public affairs at work, dynamic and not static in the territory of a geographically demarcated district. District administration includes

¹N. Hazary, Development Administration: Quest for Identity, S.B. Nangia for APH Publishing Corporation, New Delhi: 2006. P.102

²ShriramMaheshwari, Indian Administration, Orient longman Ltd. New Delhi: 1989, P.467

³VishnooBhagawan&BidyaBushman, Public administration, S. Chand& Company LTD, New Delhi: 1990, P.3

all the agencies of Government, the individual officials and functionaries, public servants. It comprehends all institutions for the management of public affairs in the district; all the bodies corporate such as the panchayat of different kinds, the gram sabhas, the nyayapanchayats, the panchayat samitis, the zillaparisads, municipal committees and local boards of every kinds. District administration provides the principal points of contact between the citizens and the process of government⁴. Thus, district administration is the most important unit in the hierarchy of the field administration and maintenance of law and order and also has become an important unit in the implementation of developmental programme in the post independent era.

Jiribam, a sub-division of Imphal East district, is situated on the western corner of Manipur. It lies between 24°14' to 24°57' North Latitudes and 93°02' to 93°15'30" East Longitudes and covers an area of 232 Square kilometers with a total population of 37,828 as per census report 2001⁵. This sub-division is 220 kilometers far away after crossing many hill ranges from its District Headquarter Porompat and also the non-contiguous part of the district separated from the rest of Imphal East District by three Districts namely Imphal west, Senapati and Tamenglong.

The geographical boundaries of Jiribam sub-division are Tousem sub-division of Tamenglong district and Tipaimukh sub-division of Churhandpur district on the East, Cachar district of Assam and Barak River on the West, again Cachar district of Assam and Jiri River on the North and Tipaimukh sub-division of Churhandpur district and Barak River on the South. Jiri River and Barak River demarcate the boundary between the Jiribam sub-division and Cachar district of Assam on northern side and some parts of western side up to Jirimukh, the confluence point of Jiri and Barak Rivers. It is linked by NH-37 New Cachar Road (Former NH-53), while passing through the breadth of the state, connecting Silchar town of Cachar district in Assam and with rest of the country. Jiribam is the only area having rail-head in the state. It is a sub-divisional Headquarter linked with all the important towns and cities and many villages within and outside the state.

The Topography of Jiribam is the extension of Cachar valley. The plain has a formation of alluvial deposition by the Jiri River. The ridge runs north to south from the centre of the town and intermingles with the highland of Aglapur. On both the sides of the ridge there are alluvial plain. Most of the settlements are found on this highland. The plain area is fertile due to alluvial soil and is generally used for cultivation. The general slope of the town is from north to south. This region is favorable for the development of the town and its hinterland and for its future widespread. The Jiri River flows from the North to the South and a number of streamlets that joined each other forming small streams which in turn joined the Jiri River at various points.

Administration is an age-old process which exists in some form or the other since the advent of a well-organized society. In fact, it has become an essential part of a society and a dominant factor in life in the modern age which has been the emergence of what has aptly been called the administrative state. It is the duty and responsibility of the administration of a state to look after myriad needs of human life-health, education, recreation, sanitation, social security and others in addition to its basic function of maintaining law and order in society⁶.

3. Administration after the British and the King of Manipur

Manipur got her absolute administrative power after a long time when India got her independence on August 15, 1947. It may be remembered that Manipur had been an independent kingdom from 33 A.D to 1890. During those periods kings were all in all in the administrative affairs. In the Anglo-Manipur war 1891, Manipur was defeated and put under the control of the British until Indian independent. In 1907 the state of Manipur constituted a Durbar to assist in the administration of Maharaja⁷. The tenure of the Durbar was five years. From the second term Vice president the British Officer became the president of the Durbar and King was the nominal head of the administration. There were twenty-two presidents of the Manipur state Durbar so far and the last president was FF Pearson. During those periods administration of Jiribam was under the control of Manipur State Durbar.

After British had left India the governmental activities increased tremendously in India. The district administration became the most vital part to carry out the welfare activities. In India the first general election on adult franchise was held in 1952 under the Indian constitution which came into force on 26th January, 1950. But in Manipur, the first general election on adult franchise was held earlier than India in 1948 under the Manipur State constitution Act, 1947 before its integration with Indian union. According to the Manipur State Constitution Act, the Legislative Assembly was 53 members, 30 from the valley, 18 from the hills and 3 from Muslim community and two members were nominated by the Maharaja⁷. From 14th August, 1947 to 7th August, 1948, an Interim Council of Ministers (care taker Government) was constituted by nomination by Bodhachandra Singh, H.H. Maharaja of Manipur. Thus, an Interim Government was established consisting of elected representatives of people and M.K Priyobarta was made the first Chief Minister of Manipur. This was the remarkable chapter and also seed of democracy had been shown in the history of Manipur. The State Assembly was, however dissolved after Manipur was merged with the Indian dominion Government on 15th October 1949. This was an important day in the history of Manipur because on that day the administration of Manipur was taken over by the Government of India in the interest of both princely state of Manipur and the rest of India. The Manipur Merger Agreement containing nine Articles was signed in Shillong on September 21, 1949 between Bodhachandra Singh, Maharaja of Manipur and V.P Menon, advisor to the Government of India, Ministry of state on behalf with the authority of Governor General of India and Shri Jai Prakash, Governor of Assam. Then Manipur became Part C state which was continued to be administered by President through a Chief Commissioner or a Lieutenant Governor. On November 1, 1956 Manipur ceased to be Part C State and became a Union Territory

⁴J. Nehru, Khera S. S., District Administration in India, National Publishing House, New Delhi: 1992, P.1

⁵Census of India 2001, Manipur, Administrative Atlas P.81

⁶A. Maheshwari, Public Administration, Laxmi Narain Agrawal, Educational Publishers, Agra:1991, P.1

⁷Manipur State Constitution Act, part 1, Section 3

under the Union Territorial Act 1956. The Territorial Council consisting of 30 elected members and 2 nominated members was constituted on 16th August 1957 and this Council was later converted in the Territorial Legislative Assembly in June 1963. In 21st January 1972, Manipur was conferred full statehood with 60 members Legislative Assembly by the Parliament⁸.

In 1949 when Manipur became a Chief Commissioner's province, the entire province was treated as single district and placed under the charge of a Deputy Commissioner. The single district was sub-divided into areas called sub-divisions. They are a) Imphal b) Bishnupur c) Thoubal d) Sadar hill e) Ukhru f) Churachandpur g) Tamenglong h) Mao i) Tengnoupal and j) Jiribam. In 1958-59 the administrative units were reorganized for administrative convenience and greater decentralization of the government machinery. These units included six hill sub-divisions and four valleys sub-divisions. Jiribam was included in hill sub-division. With a view to a more efficient system of administration and for administrative convenience the Chief Commissioner ordered the creation of five Revenue Districts a) Manipur Central b) Manipur East c) Manipur West d) Manipur North and e) Manipur South. The Manipur Central district was trifurcated into three districts in 1983. They are Thoubal, Bishnupur and Imphal district and the Imphal district is again bifurcated into Imphal East and Imphal West in 1988-89⁹. Thus, at present Manipur has got nine districts.

4. The Changing Scenario of Administration in Manipur

It has been natural that with the increase of human population and societies in size and complexities governments grow larger and make more functions with various and specialized institutions and administrative machinery also takes a large and complex shape. It is experienced that the compositions of administrative machinery varied from time to time as per requirements of those times.

It is believed that there were at least seven clans in Manipur and each of them was independent from the other before 33 A.D.¹⁰. Each of the Clan had its own head, definite territory and population. Among the seven salais (Clan) the Ningthouja clan occupied the central part of Manipur; the Luwang occupied the North-Western portion of the valley; the Angom occupied the Eastern portion and Miorang the Southern portion of Manipur. The whole Infrastructure was provided by three clans namely Ningthouja, Angom, and Luwang. It was opined by the 18th century historians of Manipur that the Nongda Lairen Pakhangba, the first king of Manipur had his Council of Ministers traditionally known as NingthouPongbatara and 64 Phamdous. The succeeding kings carried out the administration with the assistance of these 64 administrative chiefs. During the reign of Pakhangba the following departments of the state were created as 1) Laipham Shanglen, a court of justice 2) Kuchu Shanglen 3) Khanba Shanglen 4) Naharup Shanglen 5) Pacha Loishang, a court dealing with women affairs and presided over by Queen Laisana wife of Pakhangba¹¹. It signifies that Manipur had been its own traditional administrative system with different departments since ancient times. It also tried to maintain relations with other foreign countries like the India's foreign policy. The stability and order were restored with the emergence of the Meitei confederacy which later on evolved the institutionalized early state, the constitutional edict, division of Panas, administration under legal norms, installation of Shinglup (a village level economic organization), Lallup (a military institution equivalent to conscription of one able man from every household) and administration of the country on the advice of 64 Phamdous (equivalent to cabinet) including Ministers like Awapurel (Minister for foreign affairs especially to conduct relations with the Burmese and above all the standing army)¹². It is said that 64 Phamdous even had the power to make laws and customs of the state, some of the Phamdous were in charge of educating people in different craft and managing the different departments of the state, the Phamdous even have the power of imprisoning the king in case of his misbehavior¹³.

It was opined by historians that the absolute monarchical system of administration had existed in Manipur before 1891. For Example, King Loiyumba (1074-1112) as a reformer introduced administration and synthesized the administrative divisions of the country by creating into seven Lups (Division) namely- Khongchalup, Nongmailup, Angoulup, LeikolLakpaTolong Khombalup, Khurailup, liphambamlup and Khangjenglup¹⁴. He also divided the valley into six circles locally known as Pana for efficient system of administration. Thus, till 1891 Manipur was under the direct control of King. After the Anglo-Manipuri war of 1891 Manipur came under the rule of British. The conquest of Manipur by the British leads to the introduction of their direct administration over the state of Manipur. After the Anglo-Manipuri war, Churachand Maharaja, a minor boy of five years of age, a grandson of Maharaja Nara Singh was designated as the Maharaja of Manipur (1891-1941). The Raja was an ex-officio President of the Durbar. In day-to-day administration of the state of Manipur, the king was assisted by a Durbar with advisory Council. The government of India framed and implemented a set of rules for administration of both the valley and the hills. Under the Manipur Administrative Rules 1907 the Durbar was instructed with a greater amount of power than the Raja. The Vice President of Durbar was essentially to be a British officer who really played the vital role in the state administration. In the state administration, British had been the remarkable administrative control. Even the Maharaja and Durbar were not given the administrative power of Hills. From 1891 to 1907, the state was administered by the British officers on behalf of the minor king Churachand Maharaja who ruled the state with the existence of a Durbar consisting of one Indian Civil Service (ICS) officer and six Manipuri members. Maharaja Bodhachandra Singh also reigned

⁸Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Government of Manipur, Statistical Abstract of Manipur, Imphal, 2009, P.5

⁹Th. Ushakiran Devi, District Administration in Manipur Since 1972 onwards, An un-published Ph.D. Thesis submitted to Manipur University, 2004, P.48

¹⁰J. VimalDev and K. DilpLahiri, Manipur Culture and Politics, Mital Publication, New Delhi: 1985, P.5

¹¹GangumeiKabui, History of Manipur, Pre Colonial Period, National Publishers New Delhi: 1983, p. 8

¹²Ibid P. 125

¹³N. Ibobi Singh, The Manipur administration, Imphal, 1984, P. 48

¹⁴R.K. Jhaljit, A Short History of Manipur, Imphal: Self-publication, 1992, P.60

the kingdom from 1941 to 1955¹⁵. The administrative system underwent changes from time to time. The rules of administrative system were in force till Indian independent. Thus, it can be said that before the advent of the British administration, Manipur was the indigenous form of administration.

The British rule created the district administration in early time primarily as an administration of land revenue and law and order. What we have the district administration today is the legacy of the British. The district became the most vital part to run the welfare activities of the region. The key unit of administration is district in the long history of India. In Manipur, different administrative units had been operating for years. There were traditional administrative systems which were carried out under the three administrative division such as urban, rural and hills.

Manipur also has districts as the basic units of administration like other states of India and there has been a different administrative unit in operation since early times. But Manipur had no administrative division in the past in the form of district administration as done at present. It might be due to traditional outlook of then ruler as well as the then administrative convenience of the region. As per record of the then Political Agency, there was no sub-division existing in the present set up of Administrative Divisions, and rather it was treated as a single district state under the Chief Commissioner of Assam¹⁶. The whole territory of Manipur was divided into two valley and hills for the purpose of administration¹⁷. The valley was the Headquarter and the hills were the field administration. In the administrative Divisions 1931, A slight change in Pana could be observed that there were six Pana 1) Naharup, 2) Ahalup, 3) Imphal, 4) Khabam, 5) Laipham 6) JirighatPana in the Valley¹⁸. Thus, JirighatPana was added while Imphal North and South might be subjections (Break away section) of the Sadar collection Pana from the 1901 Pana Division. Manipur was divided into 32 divisions before 1074 A.D. Each division was divided into khuls (villages)¹⁹. The king was the administrative head and some of the administrative powers were delegated to his noble men. The ruler was to look after a few matters for his subjects. In the hills, the chiefs of the villages were all powerful in their respective villages and all the administrative work was carried out with the help of tribal chief who was also known as khullakpa or King. The hill chief had to pay tribute and service to the ruling king to help the administration financially. In the valley, the nature of administration was managed with the help of Pana system which is a kind of administrative division. This division was based on the basis of yumnaks (clan). There were originally four Panas that had been increased to six Pana in due course²⁰. It can be observed that from the period of 1899 to 1900 Manipur state had six Panas as administrative units for collection state revenues. The Panas were 1) Ahallup, 2) Naharup 3) Khabam, 4) Laipham, 5) Imphal, and 6) Sadar Collection and they were put under the control of a Tashildar²¹. The Lallupsyatem was also a kind of free service to the king. The administration was also carried out with the help of the Pibas at the clan level. The genesis of the hill administration may be traced to the establishment of HaoMachaLoisang (dept. of hill tribes) during the last days of king Charairongba (1706 -1709)²².

During the rules of the king of Manipur, Jiribam was also a Pana system of administration under the King²³. In 1908, the newly settled villages of Jiribam had been placed under a Mouzadar (Tashildar in Assam) by Raja Dhumbra Singh, a member of Manipur State Durbar with other members according to H.H. Churachand Maharaj, the then president of Manipur State Durbar²⁴. The primary duties of the Mouzadar were the collection of taxes and the enforcement of the Maharaja's order in the area. Thus, Jiribam had been administered by the Mouzadar with the advice and supervision of the King and Durbar until the independence of Manipur.

Thus, it is found that various kinds of administrative systems in Manipur had been reformed with the coming of British in India and in Manipur. The British administrators introduced reforms in the region by abolishing the then existing systems depending on customs and traditions.

5. District Administrative Unit in Manipur

In Manipur, there are at present nine districts of which four of them are valley districts and five hill districts. The valley district includes Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal and Bishnupur and hill districts are Senapati, Tamenglog, Churachandpur, Chandel, and Ukhrul. In the Manipur administrative divisions, there are various sub-divisions in each district. Particularly in Imphal East district there are four sub-divisions that include Jiribam, Sawombung, Porompat and Keirao-Bitra.

Sub-divisional level administration is below the district line of administration. Information, reports or details furnished by these subordinate offices form a very important part of the total corpus of information which serves the basis of decision making at the district level. In Manipur, the sub-divisions are under Sub-Divisional officers (SDO) who are senior members of Manipur Civil service. The general revenue or magisterial charge of sub-division is vested in the SDO subject to the control of Deputy Commissioner (DC). The SDO is in the sub-division and the DC is in the district.

¹⁵P. Bharat Singh, Status of Democracy in Manipur, Imphal, 2012, P.4

¹⁶Census of India 2001, Manipur, Administrative Atlas, P.6

¹⁷T.C Hudson. The Meiteis, Neeraj Publishing House, Delhi, 1984, P.60

¹⁸Census of India, Manipur, 2001, Administrative Atlas, P. 10.

¹⁹N. Ibohal, The Manipur administration, Imphal: 1976, P.84.

²⁰T.C. Hudson, Op.cit P. 25

²¹Census of India 2001, Manipur P. 6

²²Gangumei Kabui, Problems of Development of tribal areas of Manipur, The Rising Manipur Ed, Horam .M, Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 2000, P 64

²³Y. Iboyaima Singh, Jiribam the Western Gate-way of Manipur, Imphal: 2010, P.7

²⁴N. Brajmanisingh, Jiribam Itihas, Jiribam, 1999, P.3

Jiribam, one of the sub-divisions of Imphal East District is under the control of an Additional Deputy Commissioner rather than the control of sub-division by Sub-divisional Officer. This is a kind of unique administrative process for Jiribam. It is a unique as various departments have been opened in the sub-division unlike other sub-divisions in the state of Manipur. In the first general election held in 1948 under the Manipur Constitutional Act, ShriSinam Bijoy Singh was elected as M.L.A from Jiribam Constituency. Jiribam was made a minor sub-division in the state of Manipur under one in charge of Sub-Divisional officer after Indian independence. In 1957, during the period of Territorial Council Jiribam was upgraded to a full-fledged sub-division with an Extra Assistant Commissioner who functioned as the SDO of the sub-division having magisterial power²⁵. Jiribam is a valley sub-division which was once under the erstwhile Central district of Manipur, Imphal district and also Imphal West district. It is now one of the sub-divisions of Imphal East district with its Headquarter at Porompat, Imphal which is 220 Kilometers far away from the sub-division. There are two administrative circles in Jiribam viz- Jiricircle and Borobekra circles with Headquarters at Babupara, Jiribam and Borobekra respectively. Each of the circles is placed under the supervision of a Sub-Deputy Collector. The Sub-Divisional Officer is head of the sub-division. He coordinates the activities of all the officers.

5.1. Administrative inconveniences of Jiribam

One of the unique geo-administrative features of Jiribam sub-division vis-a-vis the larger geo-administrative jurisdiction of its district is that though it is territorially a non-contiguous part of Imphal East district, it has been put under the administrative jurisdiction of Imphal East since the dawn of the district administration in posts independent Manipur. To be precise, almost all the sub-divisions of Manipur are closely located at their Headquarter whereas Jiribam sub-division is the farthest of all sub-divisions situated 220 km far away from its district Headquarter Porompat. But, Jiribam and Porompat which are connected by a lone N.H-37 New Cachar Road (former N.H-53) which is the only life line for the people of Jiribam. Since Jiribam is geographically isolated and far away from its district Headquarter, it has a lot of administrative inconveniences. Although Jiribam is placed under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) rather than SDO, the sub-division is not like that of Kangpokpi where ADC enjoys the powers of Deputy Commissioner in many ways. The posting of ADC in Jiribam and the power entrusted to him without the upgradation of the sub-division into a full-fledged revenue district is political gimmick. The ADC Jiribam is not directly involved in any formulation and implementation of various developmental programme in Jiribam. It is opined by the then ADC Jiribam that he was not involved in any developmental programme taken up under the DRDA or Rural Development Department. All the flagship programme like National Rural Health Mission, National Rural Employment Guaranteed Scheme, Forest Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhigyan, ICDS scheme, Mid-day Meal programme are implemented through the Deputy Commissioner who is the coordinator or Chairman of the Programme committees. Hence, the poor people of Jiribam may remain the big losers. As the powers are concentrated, one has to travel 220 km distance either by road or by air expending huge amount of money to the district Headquarters (Imphal) for a matter. The people of Jiribam are subjected to insecurity, discrimination, general injustice as part of their everyday life located physically and politically away from the centre of power and their voices remain on periphery. The people of Jiribam have been facing great problems for a long period of time due to various reasons such as isolation from mainland, deplorable condition of NH 37, lack of infrastructure for economic development, transport, industry, communication, medical and educational facilities. Due to these various inconveniences, people of Jiribam have raised their demand to the state Government that Jiribam sub-division to be upgraded as a full-fledged revenue district since long times. Due to its isolated location and importance of the sub-divisional Headquarter as an important border town, Jiribam sub-division has been placed directly under the charge of an Additional Deputy Commissioner with Headquarter at Jiribam town since the year 1992. In view of the prevailing law and order situation in the border sub-division and the construction work of a new railway line between Jiribam and Tupul the district administration needs to be further strengthened by placing it under the charge of a Deputy Commissioner. It is therefore placed proposal before the Cabinet Ministers by Commissioner (Revenue), Government of Manipur as that 1) The existing Jiribam sub-division be upgraded as a Revenue district with Headquarter at Jiribam town. 2) The existing Jiribam and Borobekra Teshilsbe upgraded sub-division with Head quartersat Jiribam Town and Borobekra respectively. 3) The post of ADC, Jiribam be upgraded as DC, Jiribam 4) The post of SDC, Jiribam and SDC, Borobekra be upgraded as SDO Jiribam and SDO, Borobekra respectively 5) The post of SDC/HQ, Jiribam sub-division be re-designated as SDC/HQ, Jiribam district who may also function as ex-officio Sub-Register, Jiribam District²⁶. In a meeting held on 26/07/2006 the cabinet, after considering for a proposal for upgradation of Jiribam sub-division (Imphal East) as a Revenue district, decided that the "Revenue Department will seek permission from Delimitation Commission of India for enabling the Cabinet to discuss and take a decision to upgrade Jiribam to be full-fledged district"²⁷. The Delimitation Commission of India New Delhi Vide Letter No 282/MN/2005(ADU) dated 20/11/2006 has informed the Manipur Government. that the Commission agreed to the proposed upgradation of Jiribam to a full-fledged revenue district. However, the state Govt. is unable to take up any appropriate action yet. Various civil society organizations therefore raised their voices against the state Government for not fulfilling the demands of the public. After noticing the existing situation of the state Government, a Committee named 'Jiribam District Demand Committee' (JDDC) representing various civil society organizations and students' organizations was formed in a public meeting held on 28th Nov. 2006 at the office of All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) District Committee, Jiribam with Th. Thoinu Devi, President, All Jiribam MeiraPaibi in chair and adopted resolutions to launch various kind of agitations. But the state Government has not taken up any positive action so far though different kind of democratic agitations have been launched by Jiribam District Demand Committee. However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with

²⁵ Ibid P.3

²⁶ Government of Manipur, Secretariat: Revenue Dept. Cabinet Memorandum No. 21/1/99-R 26/09/2006

²⁷ Government of Manipur, Secretariat: Revenue Dept. Cabinet Memorandum No.21/1/99-R Imphal the 22nd Nov. 2006

eleven points entered in between Government of Manipur represented by the Chief Secretary and Jiribam District Demand Committee on 9th November 2011 at Chief Minister's Secretariat, Imphal. Amongst the eleven points the main point includes "The Government of Manipur has agreed to the upgradation of Jiribam sub-division into full-fledged Revenue district at an early date after submission of the report of the District Reorganization and Police Boundary Committee".

Above all, Manipur state Government is unable to convert the MOU into action so far and therefore, the people of Jiribamare quite dissatisfied with the state government. As the demand is genuine, serious agitations are likely to be launched against the state government at any time.

6. Conclusion

It is generally known that Governmental control varies widely from place to place. The peripheral area like Jiribam sub-division of Manipur has been poorly touched by the laws and regulation. The Deputy Commissioner at Jiribam being a captain without weapon in battle field could not provide the desired energy to the developmental process of this place. The distribution of population, diverse climate and vegetation and the lack of transportation facilities make stumbling blocks for integration and effective administrative control over the people living in the peripheral areas of Manipur. It can be said that conversion of Jiribam sub-division into a full-fledged revenue district is very much essential for administrative convenience and all round development of Jiribam as well in the existing situation. Otherwise, administrative inconveniences to its people continue to remain in the area.

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