

CHAPTER - 3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 BACK GROUND

Mizoram is one of the states of Northeast India, with Aizawl as its capital. The name is derived from *Mi* (people), *Zo* (Belonging to the people of Mizoram/Lushai Hills) and *Ram* (land), and thus Mizoram implies "land of the hill people. In the northeast, it is the southern most landlocked state sharing borders with three of the seven sister states, namely Tripura, Assam, Manipur. The state also shares a 722 kilometer border with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Mizoram's population was 1,091,014, according to 2011 census. It is the 2nd least populous state in the country. Mizoram covers an area of approximately 21,087 square kilometer. About 91% of the state is forested.

About 95% of current Mizoram population is of diverse tribal origins who settled in the state, mostly from south east Asia, over waves of migration starting about 16th century but mainly in 18th century. This is the highest concentration of tribal people among all states of India, and they are currently protected under Indian constitution as Scheduled Tribe. The tribes converted from Animist religions to Christianity over the first half of 20th century. Mizoram is one of three states of India with a Christian majority (87%). Its people belong to various denominations, mostly Presbyterian in its north and Baptists in south.

3.1.2 PROJECT INFLUENCE AREA

The influence area of the project corridor, for the purpose of the study, is defined at the State level, though the major economic characteristics are addressed at the project district level, which are Serchhip, Lunglei & Lawngtlai districts in the state of Mizoram.

3.2 MIZORAM POPULATION 2011

As per details from Census 2011, Mizoram has population of 10.97 Lakhs, an increase from figure of 8.89 Lakh in 2001 census. Total population of Mizoram as per 2011 census is 1,097,206 of which male and female are 555,339 and 541,867 respectively.



In 2001, total population was 888,573 in which males were 459,109 while females were 429,464.

3.2.1 POPULATION GROWTH RATE IN MIZORAM

The total population growth in this decade was 23.48 percent while in previous decade it was 29.18 percent. The population of Mizoram forms 0.09 percent of India in 2011. In 2001, the figure was 0.09 percent.

3.2.2 LITERACY RATE IN MIZORAM

Literacy rate in Mizoram has seen upward trend and is 91.33 percent as per 2011 population census. Of that, male literacy stands at 93.35 percent while female literacy is at 89.27 percent. In 2001, literacy rate in Mizoram stood at 88.80 percent of which male and female were 90.72 percent and 86.75 percent literate respectively.

In actual numbers, total literates in Mizoram stands at 848,175 of which males were 438,529 and females were 409,646.

3.2.3 POPULATION DENSITY OF MIZORAM

Total area of Mizoram is 21,081 sq. km. Density of Mizoram is 52 per sq km which is lower than national average 382 per sq km. In 2001, density of Mizoram was 42 per sq km, while nation average in 2001 was 324 per sq km.

3.2.4 SEX RATIO OF MIZORAM

Sex Ratio in Mizoram is 976 i.e. for each 1000 male, which is above national average of 940 as per census 2011. In 2001, the sex ratio of female was 935 per 1000 males in Mizoram.

Table 3.1: Sex ratio of Mizoram

| Description | 2011 | 2001 |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Approximate Population | 10.97 Lakhs | 8.89 Lakh |
| Actual Population | 1,097,206 | 888,573 |

| Description | 2011 | 2001 |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Male | 555,339 | 459,109 |
| Female | 541,867 | 429,464 |
| Population Growth | 23.48% | 29.18% |
| Percentage of total Population | 0.09% | 0.09% |
| Sex Ratio | 976 | 935 |
| Child Sex Ratio | 970 | 964 |
| Density/km ² | 52 | 42 |
| Density/mi ² | 135 | 109 |
| Area(Km ²) | 21,081 | 21,081 |
| Area mi ² | 8,139 | 8,139 |
| Total Child Population (0-6 Age) | 168,531 | 143,734 |
| Male Population (0-6 Age) | 85,561 | 73,176 |
| Female Population (0-6 Age) | 82,970 | 70,558 |
| Literacy | 91.33 % | 88.80 % |
| Male Literacy | 93.35 % | 90.72 % |
| Female Literacy | 89.27 % | 86.75 % |
| Total Literate | 848,175 | 661,445 |
| Male Literate | 438,529 | 350,105 |
| Female Literate | 409,646 | 311,340 |

3.2.5 URBAN POPULATION OF MIZORAM

Out of total population of Mizoram, 52.11% people live in urban regions. The total figure of population living in urban areas is 571,771 of which 286,204 are males and



while remaining 285,567 are females. The urban population in the last 10 years has increased by 52.11 percent.

Sex Ratio in urban regions of Mizoram was 998 females per 1000 males. For child (0-6) sex ratio the figure for urban region stood at 974 girls per 1000 boys. Total children (0-6 age) living in urban areas of Mizoram were 75,147. Of total population in urban region, 13.14 % were children (0-6).

Average Literacy rate in Mizoram for Urban regions was 97.63 percent in which males were 97.98% literate while female literacy stood at 97.02%. Total literates in urban region of Mizoram were 484,841.

3.2.6 RURAL POPULATION OF MIZORAM

Of the total population of Mizoram state, around 47.89 percent live in the villages of rural areas. In actual numbers, males and females were 269,135 and 256,300 respectively. Total population of rural areas of Mizoram state was 525,435. The population growth rate recorded for this decade (2001-2011) was 47.89%.

In rural regions of Mizoram state, female sex ratio per 1000 males was 952 while same for the child (0-6 age) was 966 girls per 1000 boys. In Mizoram, 93,384 children (0-6) live in rural areas. Child population forms 17.77 percent of total rural population.

In rural areas of Mizoram, literacy rate for males and female stood at 88.16 % and 75.23 %. Average literacy rate in Mizoram for rural areas was 84.10 percent. Total literates in rural areas were 363,334.

Table 3.2: Population of Mizoram

| Description | Rural | Urban |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Population (%) | 47.89 % | 52.11 % |
| Total Population | 525,435 | 571,771 |
| Male Population | 269,135 | 286,204 |
| Female Population | 256,300 | 285,567 |
| Population Growth | 17.40 % | 29.65 % |
| Sex Ratio | 952 | 998 |

| Description | Rural | Urban |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Child Sex Ratio (0-6) | 966 | 974 |
| Child Population (0-6) | 93,384 | 75,147 |
| Child Percentage (0-6) | 17.77 % | 13.14 % |
| Literates | 363,334 | 484,841 |
| Average Literacy | 84.10 % | 97.63 % |
| Male Literacy | 88.16 % | 97.98 % |
| Female Literacy | 75.23 % | 97.02 % |

3.3 PROFILE OF SERCHHIP DISTRICT

Demographic details of Serchhip district of Mizoram are as given below:

3.3.1 DISTRICT POPULATION

In 2011, Serchhip had population of 64,937 of which male and female were 32,851 and 32,086 respectively. In 2001 census, Serchhip had a population of 53,861 of which males were 27,380 and remaining 26,481 were females.

3.3.2 GROWTH RATE

There was change of 20.56 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Serchhip District recorded increase of 17.82 percent to its population compared to 1991.

3.3.3 DENSITY

The initial provisional data released by census India 2011, shows that density of Serchhip district for 2011 is 46 people per sq. km. In 2001, Serchhip district density was at 38 people per sq. km. Serchhip district administers 1,421 square kilometers of areas.



3.3.4 LITERACY RATE

Average literacy rate of Serchhip in 2011 were 97.91 compared to 95.18 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 98.28 and 97.53 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 96.21 and 94.11 in Serchhip District. Total literate in Serchhip District were 54,476 of which male and female were 27,598 and 26,878 respectively. In 2001, Serchhip District had 42,582 in its district.

3.3.5 SEX RATIO

With regards to Sex Ratio in Serchhip, it stood at 977 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 967. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011 Directorate. In 2011 census, child sex ratio is 949 girls per 1000 boys compared to figure of 978 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census data.

3.3.6 CHILD POPULATION

In census enumeration, data regarding child under 0-6 age were also collected for all districts including Serchhip. There were total 9,299 children under age of 0-6 against 9,108 of 2001 census. Of total 9,299 male and female were 4,771 and 4,528 respectively. Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 949 compared to 978 of census 2001. In 2011, Children under 0-6 formed 14.32 percent of Serchhip District compared to 16.91 percent of 2001. There was net change of -2.59 percent in this compared to previous census of India.

Table 3.3: Child Population of Serchhip

| Description | 2011 | 2001 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Actual Population | 64,937 | 53,861 |
| Male | 32,851 | 27,380 |
| Female | 32,086 | 26,481 |
| Population Growth | 20.56% | 17.82% |
| Area Sq. Km | 1,421 | 1,421 |
| Density/km2 | 46 | 38 |

| Description | 2011 | 2001 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Proportion to Mizoram Population | 5.92% | 6.06% |
| Sex Ratio (Per 1000) | 977 | 967 |
| Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age) | 949 | 978 |
| Average Literacy | 97.91 | 95.18 |
| Male Literacy | 98.28 | 96.21 |
| Female Literacy | 97.53 | 94.11 |
| Total Child Population (0-6 Age) | 9,299 | 9,108 |
| Male Population (0-6 Age) | 4,771 | 4,605 |
| Female Population (0-6 Age) | 4,528 | 4,503 |
| Literates | 54,476 | 42,582 |
| Male Literates | 27,598 | 21,906 |
| Female Literates | 26,878 | 20,676 |
| Child Proportion (0-6 Age) | 14.32% | 16.91% |
| Boys Proportion (0-6 Age) | 14.52% | 16.82% |
| Girls Proportion (0-6 Age) | 14.11% | 17.00% |

3.3.7 SERCHHIP DISTRICT URBAN POPULATION 2011

Out of the total Serchhip population for 2011 census, 49.31 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 32,019 people lives in urban areas of which males are 16,208 and females are 15,811. Sex Ratio in urban region of Serchhip district is 976 as per 2011 census data. Similarly child sex ratio in Serchhip district was 958 in 2011 census. Child population (0-6) in urban region was 4,145 of which males and females were 2,117 and 2,028. This child population figure of Serchhip district is 13.06 % of total urban population. Average literacy rate in Serchhip district as per census 2011 is 98.23 % of which males and females are 98.30 % and 98.17 % literates respectively.



In actual number 27,382 people are literate in urban region of which males and females are 13,851 and 13,531 respectively.

3.3.8 SERCHHIP DISTRICT RURAL POPULATION 2011

As per 2011 census, 50.69 % population of Serchhip districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Serchhip district population living in rural areas is 32,918 of which males and females are 16,643 and 16,275 respectively. In rural areas of Serchhip district, sex ratio is 978 females per 1000 males. If child sex ratio data of Serchhip district is considered, figure is 942 girls per 1000 boys. Child population in the age 0-6 is 5,154 in rural areas of which males were 2,654 and females were 2,500. The child population comprises 15.95 % of total rural population of Serchhip district. Literacy rate in rural areas of Serchhip district is 97.59 % as per census data 2011. Gender wise, male and female literacy stood at 98.27 and 96.89 percent respectively. In total, 27,094 people were literate of which males and females were 13,747 and 13,347 respectively.

3.4 PROFILE OF LUNGLEI DISTRICT

Demographic details of Lunglei district of Mizoram are as given below:

3.4.1 DISTRICT POPULATION

In 2011, Lunglei had population of 161,428 of which male and female were 82,891 and 78,537 respectively. In 2001 census, Lunglei had a population of 137,223 of which males were 71,402 and remaining 65,821 were females. Lunglei District population constituted 14.71 percent of total Maharashtra population. In 2001 census, this figure for Lunglei District was at 15.44 percent of Maharashtra population.

3.4.2 GROWTH RATE

There was change of 17.64 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Lunglei District recorded increase of 23.16 percent to its population compared to 1991.



3.4.3 DENSITY

The initial provisional data released by census India 2011, shows that density of Lunglei district for 2011 is 36 people per sq. km. In 2001, Lunglei district density was at 30 people per sq. km. Lunglei district administers 4,536 square kilometers of areas.

3.4.4 LITERACY RATE

Average literacy rate of Lunglei in 2011 were 88.86 compared to 84.17 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 92.04 and 85.49 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 87.44 and 80.60 in Lunglei District. Total literate in Lunglei District were 121,122 of which male and female were 64,515 and 56,607 respectively. In 2001, Lunglei District had 96,097 in its district.

3.4.5 SEX RATIO

With regards to Sex Ratio in Lunglei, it stood at 947 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 922. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011 Directorate. In 2011 census, child sex ratio is 963 girls per 1000 boys compared to figure of 962 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census data.

3.4.6 CHILD POPULATION

In census enumeration, data regarding child under 0-6 age were also collected for all districts including Lunglei. There were total 25,117 children under age of 0-6 against 23,052 of 2001 census. Of total 25,117 male and female were 12,798 and 12,319 respectively. Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 963 compared to 962 of census 2001. In 2011, Children under 0-6 formed 15.56 percent of Lunglei District compared to 16.80 percent of 2001. There was net change of -1.24 percent in this compared to previous census of India.

Table 3.4: Child Population of Lunglei

| Description | 2011 | 2001 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Actual Population | 161,428 | 137,223 |
| Male | 82,891 | 71,402 |

| Description | 2011 | 2001 |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Female | 78,537 | 65,821 |
| Population Growth | 17.64% | 23.16% |
| Area Sq. Km | 4,536 | 4,536 |
| Density/km2 | 36 | 30 |
| Proportion to Mizoram Population | 14.71% | 15.44% |
| Sex Ratio (Per 1000) | 947 | 922 |
| Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age) | 963 | 962 |
| Average Literacy | 88.86 | 84.17 |
| Male Literacy | 92.04 | 87.44 |
| Female Literacy | 85.49 | 80.60 |
| Total Child Population (0-6 Age) | 25,117 | 23,052 |
| Male Population (0-6 Age) | 12,798 | 11,748 |
| Female Population (0-6 Age) | 12,319 | 11,304 |
| Literates | 121,122 | 96,097 |
| Male Literates | 64,515 | 52,159 |
| Female Literates | 56,607 | 43,938 |
| Child Proportion (0-6 Age) | 15.56% | 16.80% |
| Boys Proportion (0-6 Age) | 15.44% | 16.45% |
| Girls Proportion (0-6 Age) | 15.69% | 17.17% |

3.4.7 LUNGLEI DISTRICT URBAN POPULATION 2011

Out of the total Lunglei population for 2011 census, 42.59 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 68,752 people lives in urban areas of which males are 35,314 and females are 33,438. Sex Ratio in urban region of Lunglei district is 947 as



per 2011 census data. Similarly child sex ratio in Lunglei district was 954 in 2011 census. Child population (0-6) in urban region was 8,412 of which males and females were 4,304 and 4,108. This child population figure of Lunglei district is 12.19 % of total urban population. Average literacy rate in Lunglei district as per census 2011 is 97.79 % of which males and females are 98.19 % and 97.37 % literates respectively. In actual number 59,008 people are literate in urban region of which males and females are 30,448 and 28,560 respectively.

3.4.8 LUNGLEI DISTRICT RURAL POPULATION 2011

As per 2011 census, 57.41 % population of Lunglei districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Lunglei district population living in rural areas is 92,676 of which males and females are 47,577 and 45,099 respectively. In rural areas of Lunglei district, sex ratio is 948 females per 1000 males. If child sex ratio data of Lunglei district is considered, figure is 967 girls per 1000 boys. Child population in the age 0-6 is 16,705 in rural areas of which males were 8,494 and females were 8,211. The child population comprises 17.85 % of total rural population of Lunglei district. Literacy rate in rural areas of Lunglei district is 81.76 % as per census data 2011. Gender wise, male and female literacy stood at 87.17 and 76.03 percent respectively. In total, 62,114 people were literate of which males and females were 34,067 and 28,047 respectively.

3.5 PROFILE OF LAWNGTLAI DISTRICT

Demographic details of Lawngtlai district of Mizoram are as given below:

3.5.1 DISTRICT POPULATION

In 2011, Lawngtlai had population of 117,894 of which male and female were 60,599 and 57,295 respectively. In 2001 census, Lawngtlai had a population of 73,620 of which males were 38,776 and remaining 34,844 were females. Lawngtlai District population constituted 10.74 percent of total Maharashtra population. In 2001 census, this figure for Lawngtlai District was at 8.29 percent of Maharashtra population.



3.5.2 GROWTH RATE

There was change of 60.14 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Lawngtlai District recorded increase of 34.87 percent to its population compared to 1991.

3.5.3 DENSITY

The initial provisional data released by census India 2011, shows that density of Lawngtlai district for 2011 is 46 people per sq. km. In 2001, Lawngtlai district density was at 29 people per sq. km. Lawngtlai district administers 2,557 square kilometers of areas.

3.5.4 LITERACY RATE

Average literacy rate of Lawngtlai in 2011 were 65.88 compared to 67.16 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 74.12 and 57.12 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 72.74 and 60.96 in Lawngtlai District. Total literate in Lawngtlai District were 62,861 of which male and female were 36,444 and 26,417 respectively. In 2001, Lawngtlai District had 38,603 in its district.

3.5.5 SEX RATIO

With regards to Sex Ratio in Lawngtlai, it stood at 945 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 899. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011 Directorate. In 2011 census, child sex ratio is 967 girls per 1000 boys compared to figure of 938 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census data.

3.5.6 CHILD POPULATION

In census enumeration, data regarding child under 0-6 age were also collected for all districts including Lawngtlai. There were total 22,483 children under age of 0-6 against 13,991 of 2001 census. Of total 22,483 male and female were 11,433 and 11,050 respectively. Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 967 compared to 938 of census 2001. In 2011, Children under 0-6 formed 19.07 percent of Lawngtlai District compared to 19.00 percent of 2001. There was net change of 0.07 percent in this compared to previous census of India.



Table 3.5: Child Population of Lawangtlai

| Description | 2011 | 2001 |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Actual Population | 117,894 | 73,620 |
| Male | 60,599 | 38,776 |
| Female | 57,295 | 34,844 |
| Population Growth | 60.14% | 34.87% |
| Area Sq. Km | 2,557 | 2,557 |
| Density/km2 | 46 | 29 |
| Proportion to Mizoram Population | 10.74% | 8.29% |
| Sex Ratio (Per 1000) | 945 | 899 |
| Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age) | 967 | 938 |
| Average Literacy | 65.88 | 67.16 |
| Male Literacy | 74.12 | 72.74 |
| Female Literacy | 57.12 | 60.96 |
| Total Child Population (0-6 Age) | 22,483 | 13,991 |
| Male Population (0-6 Age) | 11,433 | 7,219 |
| Female Population (0-6 Age) | 11,050 | 6,772 |
| Literates | 62,861 | 38,603 |
| Male Literates | 36,444 | 22,374 |
| Female Literates | 26,417 | 16,229 |
| Child Proportion (0-6 Age) | 19.07% | 19.00% |
| Boys Proportion (0-6 Age) | 18.87% | 18.62% |
| Girls Proportion (0-6 Age) | 19.29% | 19.44% |

3.5.7 LAWNGTLAI DISTRICT URBAN POPULATION 2011

Out of the total Lawngtlai population for 2011 census, 17.67 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 20,830 people lives in urban areas of which males are 10,659 and females are 10,171. Sex Ratio in urban region of Lawngtlai district is 954 as per 2011 census data. Similarly child sex ratio in Lawngtlai district was 971 in 2011 census. Child population (0-6) in urban region was 3,122 of which males and females were 1,584 and 1,538. This child population figure of Lawngtlai district is 14.86 % of total urban population. Average literacy rate in Lawngtlai district as per census 2011 is 95.66 % of which males and females are 96.97 % and 94.28 % literates respectively. In actual number 16,939 people are literate in urban region of which males and females are 8,800 and 8,139 respectively.

3.5.8 LAWNGTLAI DISTRICT RURAL POPULATION 2011

As per 2011 census, 82.33 % population of Lawngtlai districts lives in rural areas of villages. The total Lawngtlai district population living in rural areas is 97,064 of which males and females are 49,940 and 47,124 respectively. In rural areas of Lawngtlai district, sex ratio is 944 females per 1000 males. If child sex ratio data of Lawngtlai district is considered, figure is 966 girls per 1000 boys. Child population in the age 0-6 is 19,361 in rural areas of which males were 9,849 and females were 9,512. The child population comprises 19.72 % of total rural population of Lawngtlai district. Literacy rate in rural areas of Lawngtlai district is 59.10 % as per census data 2011. Gender wise, male and female literacy stood at 68.95 and 48.60 percent respectively. In total, 45,922 people were literate of which males and females were 27,644 and 18,278 respectively.

3.6 ECONOMY

The economy of Mizoram is largely dependent on agriculture. The agriculture economy accounts for the livelihood of more than 70% of the state's populace. The craggy hilly terrains are not conducive to cultivation of crops. However, a regular distribution rainfall for the whole length of the year and the fertile temperate soils has resulted in the springing up of dense forests enveloped in lush foliage. In spite of the rugged terrains, the favorable climatic conditions and the rich soil have led to extensive jhum cultivation in the state. Horticultural crops are also grown for economic purposes.



Agriculture forms the primary sector in the economy of Mizoram. Thus all subsidiary industries also happen to be agro-based. Several food processing units are mushrooming all over the state and the government is optimistic that the increase in the production of spices, fruits and vegetables as well cultivation of cash crops in the coming years will lead to a burgeoning food processing industry in the state.

Mizoram houses a small repository of minerals. Thus mining also contributes to a small part of the economy. In fact, majority of the mines in Mizoram dig up the hard tertiary rocks that are used as building materials.

A large number of small scale industries that sell exquisite bamboo works as well as handlooms made apparels also contribute to the state's economy. Another core sector of the economy, tourism contributes largely to the state's revenue. The state is also beginning to exploit the untapped hydro electric power potential and is also endeavoring to explore the medicinal value of the various herbs that grow in plenitude in the state's forest.

3.6.1 MACRO-ECONOMIC TREND

Below is a chart of trends in gross state product of Mizoram at market prices estimated by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with figures in millions of Indian rupees.

| Year | Gross State Domestic Product |
|------|------------------------------|
| 1980 | 680 |
| 1985 | 1,810 |
| 1990 | 3,410 |
| 1995 | 9,370 |
| 2000 | 17,690 |

3.6.2 AGRICULTURE

Agriculture in Mizoram is the primary sector of the state's economy. Although the rugged terrains are not very conducive to the cultivation of crops, the even distribution of rainfall that varies between 1900 mm and 3000 mm and the fertile temperate soil



facilitates extensive jhum cultivation. A number of crops like paddy, beans, cucumber, maize, arum, sesame, mustard and cotton are grown by practicing jhum or shifting cultivation.

Paddy of course is the most important crop that is cultivated in the state of Mizoram. After the completion of the harvesting of paddy, the seeds of the other crops are inseminated in the ground. The sowing commences from the end of April, close to the occurrence of the full moon. The two types of paddy sown are the early paddy and principal paddy. The two crops are grown side by side in the same field. Although, the initial production of early paddy is poor, it ripens quickly and is a means of subsistence till the lush golden crop of principal paddy is gleaned.

Besides agriculture, the cultivation of crops like sugarcane, cotton, tapioca, oilseeds, mustard, sesame, soybean and pulses like cowpea, French and rice beans also contribute towards the economy of Mizoram. Horticulture also adds substantially to the state's economy.

Agriculture in Mizoram is entirely dependent on the rainwater from the driving monsoon downpours. The unfavorable physical conditions do not facilitate irrigation. However, there are a couple of imminent irrigation projects that are coming up in Mat valley, Champhai and North Vanlaiphai.

3.6.3 TRANSPORT ROADS

In 2012, Mizoram had a road network of around 8,500 kilometres including unsurfaced village roads to surfaced national highways; and there were 106,000 registered motor vehicles. The village roads are primarily single lane or unmetalled tracks that are typically lightly trafficked. Mizoram had 871 kilometers of national highways, 1,663 kilometers of state highways and 2,320 kilometers of surfaced district roads. All of Mizoram's 23 urban centers and 59% of its 764 villages are connected by all weather roads. However, landslide and weather damage to these roads is significant in parts. The State is connected to the Indian network through Silchar in Assam through the National Highway 54. Another highway, NH-150 connects the state's Seling Mizoram to Imphal Manipur and NH-44A links the State with Tripura. A road between Champhai and Tiddim in Burma has been proposed and is awaiting cooperation from the Burmese authorities.



3.6.4 AIR SERVICE

Mizoram has only one airport, Lengpui Airport, near Aizawl and this Airport can be reached from Kolkata by Air within a short period of 40 minutes. Mizoram is also accessible from Kolkata via Silchar Airport, which is about 200 km. from the state capital of Mizoram. There is also daily air service from Guwahati to Aizawl (Lengpui Airport)

3.6.5 RAILWAY

There is a rail link at Bairabi rail station but it is primarily for goods traffic. The nearest railway station to Mizoram is at Silchar in Assam - some 6 hours drive from Aizawl. Bairabi is about 110 km, and Silchar is about 180 km. from the state capital.

3.6.6 WATER WAYS

Mizoram is in the process of developing water ways with the port of Akyab Sittwe in Burma along Chhimtuipui River. India is investing \$103 million to develop the Sittwe port on Burma's northern coast, about 160 km from Mizoram. Military government of Burma committed \$10 million for the venture, which is part of the Kaladan Multipurpose project. Though the connection is of limited use.

3.6.7 GEOLOGY & MINERALS

The folded structure of the Mizoram ranges are at the junction of two moving tectonic plates. (Indian and Burmese Desi Kachar 1974) The folded hilly or mountainous North South belts, with perpendicular faults, comprise sediments of the Surma, Barail, Tipam groups and Aluvium in river beds consisting of deposits of argillaceous and arenaceous sandstones, shale, siltstones and mudstones and greywacke. The rock system is weak, unstable, weathered and prone to seismic and weather influence producing landslides. The soft, black to grey rock is used locally for building materials and for low trafficked road construction work. There are no useful minerals of economic significance apart from clays in the River Tlawng beds.

Typical soils are sandy loam, clay loam that have been heavily leached due to the high slopes leaving it porous and lacking in minerals or humus.



A number of oil and gas exploration activities have taken place due the geographical condition with which Mizoram has been formed, leading to the possibilities and high expectation that reserves would be confirmed. France, Russia and Cyprus as well as several Indian companies have already signed a 12% oil and 10% gas royalty arrangement with proceeds going direct to Mizoram state on any production (April 2009).

3.6.8 FLORA AND FAUNA

The lush green vegetations and forests infested with many type of animals signify the rich Mizoram Flora & Fauna. The excellent flora and fauna of Mizoram is a strong reason behind its popularity among the tourists.

The abundance of bamboo forests is one high point of Mizoram's flora. The hills of Mizoram have dense deciduous vegetations. The valleys and the mountain peaks are blessed with many known and unknown orchids. The ever admirable rhododendron is seen in abundance in these areas. The Blue Mountain is one such place where the Veitchiunum and Arboretum species of Rhododendron are found in plenty.

The presence of thick forests and good climate facilitated the fauna of Mizoram. The animal kingdom of Mizoram comprises of several rare and endangered species. Some of the animals found in the Mizoram forests, wild life sanctuaries and national parks are:

- Bear
- Tiger
- Hoolock Gibbon
- Leopard
- Porcupine
- Mongoose
- Claw-less Otter
- Chinese Pangolin

The forest areas and the lakes of Mizoram attract large number of migratory birds beside the local birds. Several species of Pheasants, Hawks, Eagles, Bulbuls, Herons and Egrets are sighted in Mizoram. Numerous species of butterflies, moths and many colorful insects are also found in these regions.

