



UNIT X

MANIPUR – NATURAL RESOURCES AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT

NOTES

- 1. Natural Resources Soil:** The two major types of soil in Manipur are residual and transported soils. The variation in soil types is due to topography. Residual soil occurs in the hills while transported soils are found in the Central valley and the Barak basin.
- 2. Forest:** The role of the forest is threefold, i.e. protective, productive, and aesthetic, each being equally important. The state has vast area of forest covering as much as 17,418 sq. km. Based on the legal status, the forest are categorised as reserved, protected and unclassified forests.
- 3. Wildlife:** Wildlife refers to animals, birds, fishes, reptiles, insects, etc. which live in their natural habitat.
- 4. Minerals:** Minerals provide a base for the rapid industrialisation. The Geological survey of India (GSI) has undertaken survey for exploration of minerals in Manipur.
- 5. Water and power resources:** Power or electricity is the most convenient from the energy. It plays a vital role in the development of the state. The requirement of power for domestic, commercial, public lighting and industrial purpose has been increasing year after year.
- 6. Agriculture:** Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Manipur and plays a very crucial role in the economy of state. It provides employment to about 52% of the total workers in Manipur.
- 7. Industries:** Manipur continues to be an industrially backward state. This is because of poor mineral resources, difficult terrain, and shortage of power, lack of capital, poor transport system and lack of entrepreneurship and technical skills.
- 8. Small scale industries:** All the industrial units in Manipur, except those of cottage and village industries, belong to the category of small scale industries.



9. **Handloom industries:** Handloom Industry is the largest cottage industries in Manipur. Thus this industry is a labour intensive family occupation.
10. **Sericulture industry:** Sericulture is the next important cottage industry of Manipur. It has been practised from time immemorial.
11. **Handicraft industries:** Handicraft play an important role in the society because of their aesthetic value and importance in the customary functions.
12. **Transport:** After independence, there was rapid development in the transport system of Manipur. However, many parts of the state particularly in the hills still remain inaccessible.
13. **Communication:** The communication system comprises postal, telegraph, telephone service etc. has been a steady growth in the postal and telecommunication facilities in Manipur.
14. **Trade:** The government has set up two Trade Centres, one at Moreh and another at Porompat.

