

#### 4.1.1. Trend of Population Growth :

Population is a dynamic entity. Alongwith population, its distribution and composition are also continuously changing. The growth and change of population takes place by three ways— birth rate, death rate and migration. Population is growing in all the countries and states of the world.

In a developing country like India the growth of population is generally high. Like the other states of India population is also increasing in Assam. The data on population growth in Assam from 1901 to 2011 are presented in table-4.3.

According to the data of table-4.3, Assam's population was 3,289,680 in 1901 which is 1.38 percent of India's population. Population of the state was gradually increasing in every decade since 1901 and it stood at 6,694,790 in 1941. It is noticed that Assam's population increased by more than two times during 1901-41. In 1941 its population was 2.10 percent of the country's total. Looking at the

*Geography*



**Table-4.3 : Trend of Population Growth in Assam (1901-2011).**

Years	Population	Percentage of India's Population	Decadal Growth Rate (in percentage)	Population Density (Population per km <sup>2</sup> )
1901	3,289,680	1.38	-	42
1911	3,848,617	1.52	16.99	49
1921	4,636,980	1.84	20.48	59
1931	5,560,371	1.99	19.90	71
1941	6,694,790	2.10	20.40	85
1951	8,028,865	2.22	19.93	102
1961	10,837,329	2.46	34.98	138
1971	14,625,152	2.66	34.95	186
1981*	18,041,248	2.64	23.36	230
1991	22,414,322	2.65	24.24	286
2001	26,655,528	2.59	18.92	340
2011	31,205,576	2.58	17.07	398

**Note :** In 1981\* no census was held, so in that year the population data mathematically calculated by the Census of India are given.

decadal growth rate it is seen that during 1901-11, the population growth rate was 16.99 percent. But after that, during 1911-21 the growth rate increased to 20.48 per cent. However, in the subsequent decades, the growth rate remained more or less same, such as 19.90 per cent in 1921-31, 20.40 per cent in 1931-41 and 19.93 per cent in 1941-51 (Table-4.3). But during post Independence period since 1951, the population of the state increased at faster rate. Especially, during the two decades 1951-61 and 1961-71, the growth rate of population increased to 34.98 per cent and 34.95 per cent respectively against that of the previous two decades. But, the growth of population declined slowly during the next decades which is evident from the tabulated data for the decades 1971-81, 1981-91, 1991-2001 and 2001-2011. This slow decline in population growth rate may be attributed to gradual decrease in birth rate and also the little control of migration from Bangladesh due to growing awareness of the public and the governments in recent years. Comparative data on decadal growth of population in Assam and India during 1901-2011 are presented in figure 4.2.



DECADAL GROWTH OF POPULATION IN ASSAM AND INDIA, 1901-2011

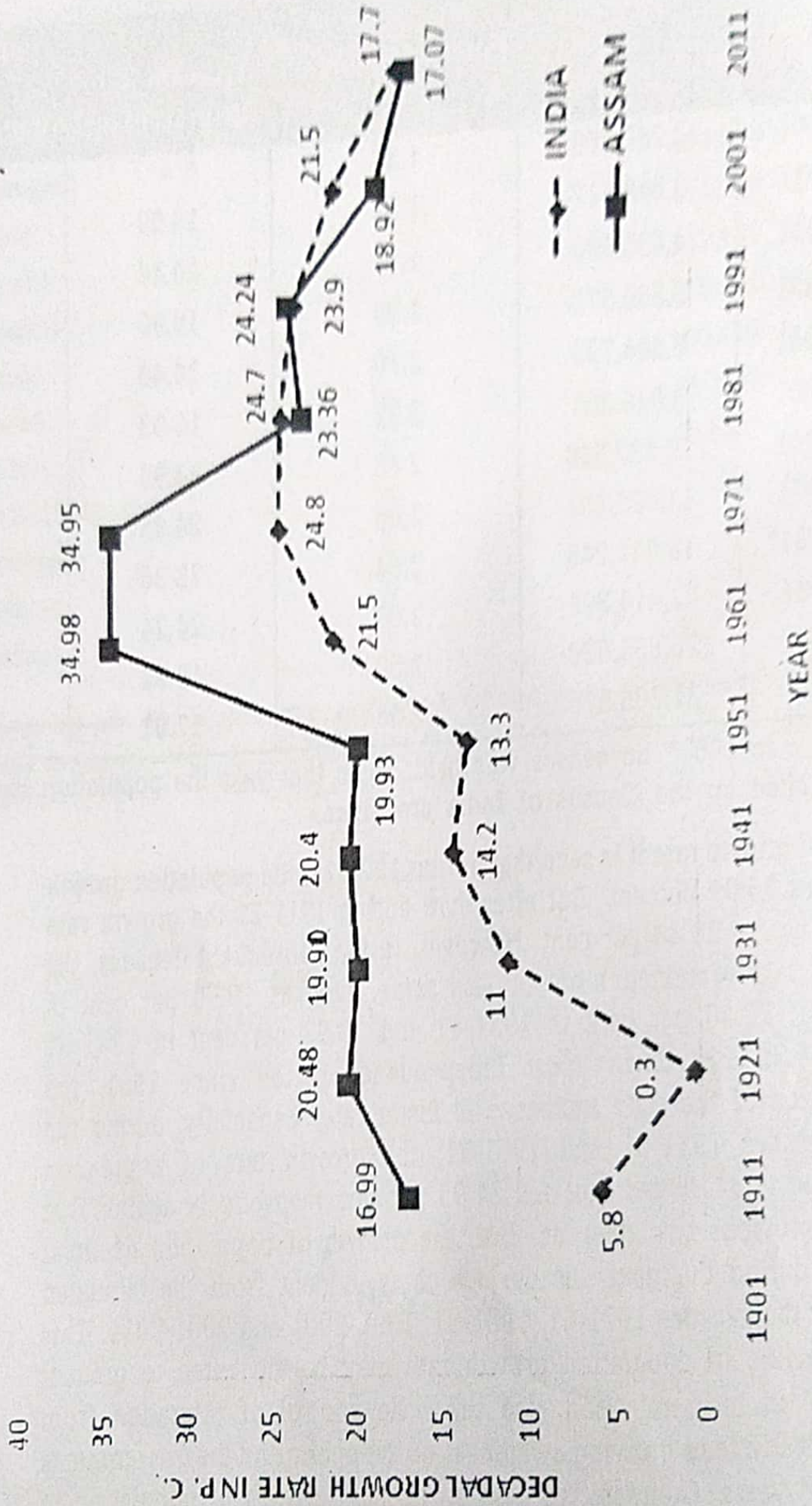


Fig. 4.2