

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

It is difficult for the author to find appropriate words to express his gratitude for assistance and co-operation received from different quarters. In the collection of material for this study the author received valuable information and ready assistance particularly from the Indian Tea Planters' Association, Jalpaiguri; Terai Branch Indian Tea Association, Bengdubi; Terai Indian Planters' Association, Matigara; Duars Branch Indian Tea Association, Binnaguri; Indian Tea Association, Calcutta; Tea Association of India, Jalpaiguri; Tea Board of India, Calcutta, and the author is grateful to all of them.

The author is thankful to Research Service Centre, University of North Bengal, for processing of voluminous data.

Dr. R. C. Sharma, Reader, Department of Commerce, University of North Bengal, my Research Supervisor and my teacher, has althrough been and unfailing source of inspiration and encouragement. His valuable guidance and keen interest enabled me to complete the study. My indebtedness to him is, indeed, great.

I am thankful to Prof. D. B. Dutta, Vice-Chancellor, University of North Bengal, Dr. P. K. Ghose,

(ii)

presently Professor of Commerce, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, and former Vice-Chancellor, University of North Bengal, my teacher Dr. I. K. Chatterjee, former professor of Commerce, University of North Bengal and presently Professor of Commerce, Kalyani University, Dr. S. N. Mehrotra, Professor of Commerce, Benaras Hindu University, ~~and~~ Dr. P. Chattopadhyay, Professor of Management, University of Burdwan, Dr. I. P. Sinha, Dean of the faculty of Commerce, University of Lucknow, for valuable comments and suggestions and inquiries about the progress of the work.

I shall be failing in my duties if I do not record here the help that I received from my teacher in the Department Mr. J. N. Chakraborty and colleagues Mr. G.C. Sarker, Mr. D. P. Pande and Mr. P. R. Sengupta in particular at various stages of progress of this work. In the preparation of this thesis continuous encouragement by Prof. M. Dasgupta, Department of Economics and Prof. S. M. Ray, Department of Political Science, of University of North Bengal was always a source of inspiration to me. My friend Dr. Pradip Sengupta, Department of Political Science has helped me much while comparing the manuscript. I am thankful to all of them.
