PREFACE

The purpose of the study on "REFUGEES PROBLEMS IN TAMILNADU WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BURMA AND CEYLON REFUGEES" is to bring out an actual account of the position of Burmese and Ceylonese refugees in Tamil Nadu today, and the rehabilitation works done by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the betterment of their life. This research work mainly focuses on the Burmese and Ceylonese refugees who were basically Tamilian, who went and settled there in the control of British rule. At that time, Burma and Ceylon were under the control of British rule upto 1937, Burma and Ceylon were part and parcel of India. Therefore, it was easy for Tamilians to settle there. This not continued for a long period. When Burma and Ceylon were divided from India, the problem of citizenship arose. Later, First World War, Japanese occupation of Burma and Ceylon nationalization of banks and lands widened the gap between the two countries. Perhaps it resulted in the left out of Tamilians from Burma and Ceylon.

These Burmese and Ceylonese Tamils, who came back to their motherland, were not received warmly. In Tamilnadu they were called and treated as refugees. In this research work, the problems and difficulties whatever they faced in the refugee camps and special camps are duly explained. And the rehabilitation works and other humanitarian helps given by the Government of Tamilnadu and the special agencies of UNO like UNHCR and UNRRA are also explained elaborately. Thus this thesis is unique in character to explain the refugee rights and their problems.
I am very thankful to the GOD who guided me from the beginning to the end of the thesis.

Being the 'repository of hidden treasures' the Tamilnadu Archives has given me a golden opportunity to exhaust and cull out all the source materials, to interpret my dreams into vision.

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