Global competition is the name of the game in international economic relations. Unequal access to technology has certainly played a substantial role in this context. Transfer of technology from the developed to the developing countries started with the problems of implementing modern production methods in relatively primitive environments, the costs of technology and inherently imperfect and oligopolistic markets for know-how. It then moved on to problems of socio-economic appropriateness of imported technologies and their adaptation to the needs of the developing countries. More recently, it has concerned itself with the interaction of technological generation and technological imports in the Newly Industrialising Countries (NICs). Simultaneously, these NICs are importing and exporting technologies. India as a newly industrialising country is no exception in this regard.

The present study has focused, in particular, on India's transfer of technology to developing countries as well as on Indian technical potential and its science and technology policy. An attempt has been made to examine the interaction between India's technical capability and its will to help other less developed countries through technical aid. The focal point of the study is the pattern of India's technology exports. The study also attempts
to identify scientific and technological areas where India can help the other developing countries of Asia and Africa. The study has examined some of the important aspects, viz. whether -

(a) India is transferring technology for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and its pattern of technology transfer is the same as that of the western industrialized countries.

(b) India, on the one hand, has been adapting and assimilating the imported technology and on the other, has been providing appropriate technology to the developing countries.

(c) India proposes to further enhance its power and position in the developing countries by competing with other NICs like South Korea, Taiwan and Brazil in the sphere of technology transfer by exporting diversified and sometimes sophisticated technology to other developing countries.

Technology has come to dominate the present day world. It is regarded as the most powerful agent of change at work in both, the developed and the developing countries. Rapid strides in technology have revolutionised life styles the world over. Technological change can stimulate new solutions and create the dynamism for progress in every society. To advance or to even maintain its position as an economic power in the world today, a
nation must formulate long-range technological strategies. The countries which have advanced in this sphere dominate the world in terms of trade and economic power. It also makes important contributions to the nation's strength and national security.

Technology transfer has emerged as an important phenomena in the contemporary world. The process of technology transfer makes easier the acquisition of existing technologies and related inputs to produce goods and services. International technology transfer occurs whenever production in one country benefits from technical knowledge available in another. At the international level, technology transfer takes place at three levels i.e. among the developed countries, between the developed and the developing countries and among the developing countries themselves. Technology is a key factor in forecasting the national strength of nations. Nations use technology transfer as a diplomatic instrument to promote their national interests. It involves use of technical know-how for achievements of foreign policy aims - political, commercial and economic. Many transactions in technology take place under imperfect market conditions in which bargaining advantage is very much on the side of the technology supplier.

The present pattern of technology transfer is mainly a one way process from the developed to the developing
countries. Majority of technology is controlled by the multinational corporations (MNCs). They are the principal owners and sellers of industrial technology. The developing countries are purchasers and recipients of technology. They have minimum bargaining strength due to the technological gap. The primary aim of MNCs is to earn profit. Their concern, if any, for the basic needs of the developing country is only secondary. These basic needs of the developing countries cannot be met under the present pattern of technology transfer, as the techniques of production are often capital and energy intensive and require sophisticated managerial skills. Patents, trademarks, licensing and intellectual property laws further strengthen technological dependence of the developing countries upon the developed ones.

The developing countries have continued to make concerted efforts towards developing economic and industrial policies. The present emphasis is on TCDC. It leads to economic development and increase in the bargaining capacity of the developing countries vis-a-vis the developed countries and also helps them to fight against neo-colonialism. It is conceived as a necessary strategy at the present stage of development wherein some developing countries have emerged as NICs. Consequently, there is an emergence of new MNCs which tend to be more interested in the developing countries market and production
possibilities. They specialize in labour intensive technologies usually in consonance with local conditions and needs.

The present study is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter deals with the importance of technology, meaning of technology transfer and its use as a meaningful instrument to promote national interests by big and middle powers. It also discusses the technology gap theory and product-life cycle theory about technology transfer and three approaches (liberal, conservative and radical) regarding technology transfer. The second chapter explains the present and emerging pattern of technology transfer with specific reference to MNCs and their practices.

The third chapter elaborates on the concept of TCDC and particularly examines India's role in it. The fourth chapter explores India's technical potential mainly in agricultural, industrial, electronics and space spheres. The fifth chapter deals with India's science and technology policy and also with science and technology as a basic determinant of India's foreign policy. Co-relation between India's capability and its will to help other less developing countries by giving them technical assistance has also been discussed. It also asserts that India's technical policy primarily aims at a technical cooperation and promotion of peace and stability.
The sixth and seventh chapters give analysis of India's technical exports. The sixth chapter deals with the exports of engineering goods, project exports and licensing of technology. Consultancy exports, joint ventures and Indian technical economic cooperation (ITEC) programme are discussed in the seventh chapter. The eighth chapter evaluates India's technological exports to the developing countries of Asia and Africa in the light of its diplomatic endeavours. It also examines whether India has used technology transfer as a diplomatic instrument to achieve its foreign policy goals and objectives. Thereafter the study draws its conclusions.

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