PREFACE

In a democracy, legislature is the most important law-making body, which allocates values and takes legitimate decision for the society. Therefore, the significance of the study of the legislature and the legislative behaviour, role and performance of its incumbents has been increased in the world of modern social science researches. The present study is an attempt to study the legislative role-performance of Sri Biswanath Das, an illustrious son of Orissa, who had contributed much to the functioning of legislative system in Orissa and the public policies made by the system.

Sri Biswanath Das, as a legislator was a linkman between the Gandhian era and post-Gandhina period in India. He tried to transmit Gandhian values to the next generation by his honesty, ideology and integrity, while he was in different political posts and positions. To sum up his political career, he was a Member of Madras Legislative Council for nearly a decade in pre-independence period representing the people of Ganjam district, which was then a part of Madras Presidency. He joined the Indian National Movement as well as the movement for the creation of a separate Orissa Province. He became
the first Premier of Orissa, after the Provincial Legislature was created and the election was made to it. He became the Member of the Constituent Assembly to frame a new Constitution for the independent India. He was a strong nationalist as well as a federalist. He was a staunch believer of a strong nation with strong states. He was a party member of Indian National Congress and he also headed for sometimes party leadership in Orissa. However, as a legislator, Sri Das was above parochial party considerations, when he led the people of Orissa or represented the people of Orissa in state or national political forum. Therefore, even if he was a member of Congress Party, he headed the coalition government of Non-Congress parties in Orissa being the Chief Minister of the State.

In the present thesis, an attempt has been made to analyse the role performance of Sri Biswanath Das as a legislator and the political environment in which Sri Das discharged his functions in different capacities. For the purpose of systematic study, the dissertation has been divided into eight main chapters and a small chapter at the end on the findings and conclusion of the study.

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