It nearly seven years since I have been involved with the study of the larger problem of regional disparities in India's economic development and its different dimensions. It was then I was in the Economic Research Department of the State Bank of India in 1975 that I was first involved with the question in an indirect way. One of my research assignments was a study of the regional pattern of the deployment of bank funds. I had the opportunity to pursue this subject further when I was awarded a research fellowship by the ICSSR to make a study of the problem. After I joined the University of Cochin I was registered for research leading to the degree of doctor of philosophy on the present problem. I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude for the facilities offered to me to pursue this study in its different aspects to the ICSSR and the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum where I worked on the fellowship; and the School of Management Studies, University of Cochin. I am particularly grateful to late Prof. J.P. Naik, the then Secretary of the ICSSR.

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