It is an undeniable fact that Manipur has poor resource-endowments. But it is equally undeniable that the rate of economic progress of the State achieved during the last two and a half decades or so has been much slower than that warranted even by the limited resources available. The present work makes a systematic and comprehensive attempt to analyse the factors inhibiting growth and to devise ways and means of stepping up the rate of the economic growth of Manipur against the background of the existing structure of the State's economy and the trends of its growth, and also in the light of received doctrines in the field of the theory of economic development.

The work falls into three parts - the first dealing with an analysis of the existing structure of the State's economy; the second, with a critical review of the progress of the economy during the last two and half decades or so; and the third, with a projection towards a better future. Also, since theoretical ideas constitute the basis of the entire work, a discussion on the strategy of economic development of underdeveloped countries or regions is presented in the 'Introduction' and a critical review of the existing theories of economic development is given in the 'Appendix'
The work is the first systematic study of the economic development of Manipur. But it is not just a regional study of the State. It analyses the economic problems of Manipur in such a way that the position of the State in relation to the neighbouring State of Assam and the whole country is clearly portrayed. Furthermore, the work views the economic development of Manipur not as an isolated phenomenon but as an integral part of the economic development of India as a whole.

An attempt has been made to make the treatment as analytical as possible, sorting out the important and strategic variables of the economic development of the State. The author's intimate knowledge of the place as a native of the State facilitated the analysis a good deal.

The analysis here is based on source-materials which consist of books, published reports - Governmental and non-Governmental - unpublished records of Government Departments and findings of my own field work. Reliance is mainly placed on published source-materials of primary character, and authentic Governmental reports and records, while keeping in mind the fact that official reports are not infrequently biased. Where official source-materials are considered biased, they are verified with the results of my own field work.

However, since the coverage of the field work was limited, the results of the same have been sparingly used, only as a test
of apparently conflicting data and in cases where other source-materials are not available. While all possible care has been taken to check and weigh the materials, the author is keenly conscious of the deficiencies and inaccuracies of the source-materials acquired and used.

The author would apologise for the bulk of the work. In spite of all his best efforts, the author could not reduce the size of the thesis since the work covers a long period of nearly thirty years and since the subject is a vast one having many facets. A shorter compass would have been possible only at the expense of full justice to the treatment of the subject. Another word of apology: in the text of the thesis Manipur is frequently referred to as a 'State' while in fact it is only a Union Territory. This usage has been adopted merely as a convenient expression.

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