CHAPTER - VII
Assam is predominantly an agricultural state of India. The process of rapid industrialisation is yet to set in this state. Assam is almost isolated from the rest of the country except a narrow corridor of West Bengal. This state has been neglected because of its position and backwardness. The whole North Eastern Region Shares an international boarder with China, Myanmar (Burma), Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. The infrastructural facilities have not yet developed during the last four decades. Due to the low level of social overheads this region remains backward. About seventy percent people of Assam live in rural areas. Agriculture is the main occupation for the rural masses.

Undivided Goalpara district is one of the backward districts within this backward state of Assam. Economic prosperity of this district depends on the primary and secondary sector. Eradication of unemployment, under employment and poverty, leading to an all round development can be achieved by setting up resource based industries in the undivided Goalpara district. The Government is effortful in eradicating the poverty by providing suitable and timely employment to human resources having no utilization in agricultural and non agricultural operations. Almost all types of farming activities have been practiced by the
farmers of undivided Goalpara district. This district is endowed with different natural resources like, hills, rivers, beels, forest, minerals etc. Being a monsoon favoured region, this district possesses moderate climate for all Kharif and Rabi crops.

The rapid growth of population during the last four decades reduces the per capita land holding and consequently, the traditional firming are found to be inadequate to meet the growing demand of agri-products. It is now not only essential but also important to use modern scientific method of cultivation so as to increase the agricultural production. The development of agricultural sector generally induces the development of industry. Economic prosperity of this district depends on the development of agriculture and a developed agricultural sector helps in the process of industrial development. Eradication of unemployment, under employment and poverty leading to an all round development can be achieved by setting up resource based industries in the undivided Goalpara district. The central as well as state Governments are sponsoring various poverty eradication programmes all over the country but no concrete results have been achieved so far.

This study at undivided Goalpara district reveals that nature has given sufficient resources for utilising in
the industrial operations. At present a large number of youths of these districts are engaging themselves in different enterprises as their primary occupation. With proper motivation and financial assistance the industrial ventures may go a long way to solve the unemployment problem of these district and it may improve the socio-economic condition of the poor people.

It is also noticed that the present socio-economic condition of Goalpara, Dhubri, Bongaigaon and Kokrajhar district is not at all conducive for any economic activity. Inspite of having all the necessary resources for agro-based, forest based and service based industries, the undivided Goalpara district remains as backward district. The factor of production, land, labour and other resources are available in the district but capital and organisation are inadequate to help in the process of industrialisation.

There are three types of rural employment open to industrial workers. They are wage-paid industrial work, wage paid non-industrial work and self employment. The extent of self employment depends on the economic resources available to agricultural household or the individual labourer. Self employment in case of male workers takes the form of small scale industries, handicrafts, motor garage, cycle repairing shop, wooden furniture, steel furniture, etc. while women are
self-employed in dairy farming, handloom industries, sericulture and weaving and hundred other odd jobs. The landless and other agricultural workers, due to paucity of capital and low social status have very little opportunities to create such employment.

The socio-economic environment in terms of an institutional framework in the district are economic policy statements, economic plans, regulation, role of private and public sector, small enterprises etc. are functioning properly in this region.

On the other hand, income, price, output, investment, trade, labour supply and other factor endowments and structural relation among these variable constitute the physical framework of economic environment. This economic environment is not at all favourable in this district. However, this district has abundant natural resources to use in industries and as such a number of village and small scale industries are coming up here and there. The District Rural Development agency (DRDA) is undertaking various centrally sponsored programmes for the overall development in the rural areas. It is also observed that, when adequate infrastructural facilities are created through new industrial policy a large number of economically viable village and small scale units may be set up in the undivided Goalpara district.
In this economically backward district setting up of medium and large scale industries is very difficult at the initial stage in private sector as it involves huge capital, high technology and skilled workers. The consumption of power is one of the indicators of industrial and economic development of any region. It is seen from the survey that the use of electricity is the lowest in this district. There is no hydro-electricity generation plant in the district although there are very good scope of Generation of hydro-electricity in the district.

The growth of population in the undivided Goalpara is highest. The growth of population in all India average is 54.01% and all Assam average growth is 53.26% during 1971 to 1991 whereas it is 62.43% in undivided Goalpara district. It indicates the low literacy rate in the district. The growth of population is very low among the educated section of the society.

This district is suffering from the problem of a well developed transport system. Transport and communication being the essential infrastructural facilities for the development of industry in any region. Road Transport is inadequate to cater to the needs of all the sectors of the economy. Only one Broad Gauge Railway line passes through the
district and as such it is not in a position to serve all the people of the district. This district is having some important navigable rivers including the mighty river Brahmaputra but inland water transport is not developed in the true sense of the terms. This is one of the reasons for low level of industrial development. So far as technical education is concerned this district remains untouched during the last fifty years. No technical institute—worth the name has been set up in the district.

The overall socio—economic development of this undivided Goalpara district is in its initial stage. The district is regarded as a zero industrial district (except Bongaigaon district).

It is observed that 90 percent of the total working force is engaged in agriculture activities. Out of this 90% working force more than 40 percent are disguised unemployment. If, the district can create an industrial climate, a portion of disguised unemployed can be utilised for productive purposes.

Almost all the people living in the un-divided Goalpara district are originated from agriculturist families and as such only first generation entrepreneurs are working in the district except a few innovative migrated
entrepreneurs setting up some viable industries in the district. Industrial development can be expected only from the development of entrepreneurship in this industrial backward district.

It is noticed from our survey all over the un-divided Goalpara district that it lacks human resource development programme. The district authority does not initiate manpower planning for the use of growing population. Manpower planning is the first step for the developmental process. Financial services in the district are not well developed as most of resource mobilisation agencies are not in a position to collect the savings from the household segment. As a result capital formation in the district is very low.

In comparision with other districts of Assam, the number of nationalised bank branches in the rural areas of the district is also very few and bank facilities for taking up commercial activities are not known to the most of the rural people.

The un-divided Goalpara district is very rich in forest resources. It has large number of forest based industries situated in different parts of the district. There are very good scope of setting up forest based industries.
The existing industries operating in the district are gradually becoming sick due to the mismanagement and marketing problems. These industries are started without scientific considerations at the initial stage. However, there is still hope to improve the working of those industries. A large number of modern industries based on downstream products of Bongaigaon petro-chemical & Refinery Ltd. can be profitably set up in Bongaigaon district. Further, some ancillary units can be set up around the Bongaigaon Petro-Chemicals Ltd.

Considering all these, it becomes necessary to prepare development plan to utilise all the resources of the district in a fruitful manner. Industrial development requires a co-ordinated efforts of Government, entrepreneurs, financing agencies and the participation of the people.

The research project has yielded different facts and observations as summarised below –

1. It has been observed that the demand for industrial products is gradually increasing all over the district. Industrial products of all kinds have been imported from outside the district which could otherwise produce in the district.
2. Most of the rural people are living below the poverty line. They can be used in industrial operations for the benefit of both the industrialists and the poor section of the society.

3. Lack of awareness of the first generation entrepreneurs is a problem because they ignore the importance of the scientific guidelines.

4. The Government incentives are found to be not properly distributed because many needy entrepreneurs have been deprived of it.

5. In many occasions, the loan and other incentives are not properly utilised by the industrial units. Some units diverted the loan for other operations.

6. Devoted workers are generally not available in this district. No human resource development subsystems are used by the management. So it is essential to impart training to the first generation entrepreneurs.

7. A large number of unemployed youth of the district are now accepting self-employed occupation. This is a very good indications for the industrial development of the district.

8. The manpower trained by the Government are not in a position to show spectacular result in industrial operation in the district.
9. Considering the socio-economic situation of these districts, different industries are to be set up to develop the region.

To study the objectives of the project a few hypothesis have been formulated to comprehend the idea more precisely as below -

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<tr>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
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<td>1. Lack of entrepreneurial talent is the cause of industrial backwardness of the district.</td>
<td>The hypothesis may be accepted as it has been verified. In the proceeding chapters that industrial development is not possible due to the inadequacy of entrepreneurs.</td>
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<td>2. Identification of real entre­preneurs would automatically start the process of industrialisation.</td>
<td>This hypothesis is acceptable as we have seen in chapter-IV that industrialisation process could not work due to the ineffective identification of entrepreneurs in the district.</td>
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<td>3. Absence of industrial culture in the district is another</td>
<td>This hypothesis is tested in the III and V Chapters</td>
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<th>Hypothesis</th>
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<td>cause of industrial backwardness.</td>
<td>that there is no industrial culture prevailing in the district as the district is primarily an agricultural district.</td>
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4. Proper identification of problems and planning would help in the socio-economic development of the district. This hypothesis is also tested in Chapter IV where we have seen that there is no proper identification of problems of industry and there is no planning for executing the programmes and as such socio-economic development is not effecting.

Therefore, it is evident from this study that industrial sector is a part and parcel of the state's economy. The development of secondary sector is very much essential for the economic development of un-divided Goalpara district. Though, the efforts made so far is not sufficient but the situation may be changed with co-ordinated efforts of Government and the public.
A few suggestions may be put forward for the industrial development of undivided Goalpara district from the present piece of research study.

1. Awareness of the people must be developed about the importance of industrial sector in the economy. The measures taken by the Government is inadequate. So extensive measures must be taken for setting up industries in the district. To motivate the small entrepreneurs, industrial areas visit must be organised so that prospective entrepreneurs may realise the importance of viable industrial economy.

2. Modern scientific industrial practices must be intensively used to get optimum result.

3. To popularise and motivate the small entrepreneurs Government should organise demonstrational programme in selected areas through out the district, instead of simply given oral guidance.

4. The industrial loan should be provided to the small industrial unit at more easy terms and conditions.

5. The activities of beneficiary must be strictly supervised by the financial agencies as well as concerned department, so that they cannot show any negligence in performing industrial operations.
6. All the necessary infrastructural facilities should be provided for the smooth running of the existing as well as prospective industries in the district, such as -

(a) Generation of electricity should be given top priority for the development of industry and it should be given at a reasonable rate.

(b) Transport and Communication system to be developed for easy transportation of raw materials and finished product. As it is a zero industry district, transport subsidy should be allowed to the deserving units.

7. Special incentive may be created by the Government to the industrial unit performing excellence in the shape of reward or in newsletter.

8. Extensive and intensive research work may be conducted on different aspects of industry to increase the production. Different constraints of industrial activities should be repeatedly be studied to find remedial action.

9. Government planning should be based on field level study and that should be conducted by technical personnel.

10. Population in the district is increasing at a higher rate. Family planning should be seriously implemented in the district. Manpower planning in organisation level and
national content should be introduced for the human resource development. Investment in education is the only means to achieve the socio-economic development of the district.

11. Disguised unemployed in the agricultural sector can be utilised in the industrial sector. This helps in eradicating the unemployment problems to some extent.

12. Entrepreneurship development programmes are to be started in each of the block of the district to train first generation entrepreneurs half yearly or annually to imbibe the spirit of entrepreneurship in the district.

13. As the district is rich in forest resources some important forest based small scale and medium industries can be set up easily. The forest based industries can be developed up to the optimum level of production in the district.

14. It is also observed that almost all the industrial units of the district are suffering from management problems. Decision making, planning and controlling functions are not at all satisfactory. In case of small scale industries, the owner entrepreneurs take managerial responsibilities as well as technical and financial expert decision maker. In his absence nothing is done by the employees as he is not imparting necessary training to the employees. So it is
suggested that all the employees should be trained to perform their present or future job as well. Human Resource Development subsystems are to be implemented for the smooth running of the industrial units.

15. Each and every existing industrial units are facing financial problems in its various phases. Project reports are not properly drawn up and shortage and excess of working capital are very much spectacular in the working of the industry. Sometimes inventories are mounting up which blocks the working capital. Some buyers specially Government departments are not paying the bills in time. This has created various financial problems for the industries. It is therefore, suggested that financial matters should be carefully analysed by the industrial unit. Government departments should release the outstanding bill without further delay.

16. Marketing is also a very important segment for the development of industries. Small scale and village industries are not in a position to engage the expert sales force to increase their turnover. It is seen that some industrial units are to close their operations due to non-availability of markets. Further, small enterprises cannot allow good commission and other incentives to the salesforce. It is therefore, suggested to set up marketing agency houses to
take care of the disposal of products. It may be started by the Government, like Handicraft Development Corporation or by the association of industrial units.

17. To develop potential small scale industries, tiny industries and medium industries, Government may set up growth centre with all facilities in each development block of the un-divided Goalpara district.

18. Development of social overheads is not only essential but also important for all round development of all the sectors of the economy. These districts are having acute socio-economic problems, social unrest, disturbing educational environment which push back the whole socio-economic system to a stand still. Thus it is suggested to put an end of the situation immediately. It requires concerted efforts of all the citizen of the district and Government officials to discharge their duty properly. Investment in education is the only answer to these problems. Government should plan for the solution of poverty and unemployment by giving top priority.

19. The un-divided Goalpara District is primarily an agricultural district. So, we are advocating to develop agro-based industries at the initial stage of industrialisation.
These are the problems of industrialisation in undivided Goalpara district. However, if proper attention is paid by interested parties, this undivided Goalpara district may find a good place in the industrial map of the country.