PREFACE

The Assam economy is passing through a critical phase. Despite the satisfactory buildup of technical & institutional infrastructure, injection of modern technology into a traditional agriculture, the state has paradoxically experienced severe shortages in the face of large unutilised capacity, just as it has been experiencing inflationary price rise in the recent years unparalleled in Assam's history.

The 1991 census reveals that, about 67 percent of the total population are entirely dependent on agriculture and its allied activities and about 13 percent on Industrial Sector in our country. The contribution of agriculture sector to the National income in our country is very high as compared to other industrially and economically developed countries of the world. Agriculture and its allied activities together contribute as much as 36 (at current prices) percent to the National income of India, but in U.K. and U.S.A it contributes only 3 and 5 percent respectively. The agriculture sector provides ample scope for the development of industrial sector by providing rawmaterials and other inputs. But due to lack of adequate infrastructural facilities, the development of agriculture is not taking its roots. This happens mainly due to very poor infrastructural base of the rural areas. The Gross Domestic product (GDP) and industrial growth rates in our country is increasing gradually. The GDP and industrial growth rates from 1992-93 to 1995-96 have increased from 4.3% to 6.2% and from 2.3% to 12.0 percent respectively.
The industrial backwardness is the serious problem for overall socio-economic development of our country. It requires concerted efforts from all the promoting and financing agencies (both Govt. and private) for the development of over-all economy of the country. Both the developed and under developed world look at the industrialisation process as an important key to economic development. Development of other sectors without industrialisation would result in a lop-sided development of the country.

The economic and industrial backwardness are the major problems for the overall socio-economic development of the un-divided Goalpara district. The economy of un-divided Goalpara district primarily rests on agricultural activities, but the performance of this sector is not to the mark. The productivity of agriculture sector is not showing any upward tendency in the production of food and cash crops. In the un-divided Goalpara district there is no balanced growth and development in all sectors of the economy. The ratios of man, money and materials do not proportionately match with each other. The indicator of industrial growth of a particular region or a district is the net output in terms of value contributed by the industrial sector and the magnitude of generation of employment opportunities. This criteria gives a view of very low position of industrial scenario of un-divided Goalpara district in comparison to other districts of Assam.

The un-divided Goalpara district is a notified industrially backward district (except the present Bongaigaon district) of which the present
Goalpara district is one of the industrially zero district of Assam, and accordingly it was included in the list 216 District Industry Centre (DIC) during 1977 to give massive thrust in the area of rural industrialisation.

The socio-economic upliftment of the un-divided Goalpara district can be expected from the development of secondary and tertiary sectors along with the primary sector. The lack of industrial atmosphere coupled with unorganised effort for industrialisation is the predominant feature of the district economy.

It is therefore necessary to evaluate the problems of industrialisation and to examine the industrial potential in the un-divided Goalpara district so as to facilitate the concerned parties to take up feasible development plans in the district.

In this study I review the existing industrial activities and examine future prospects and its problems in the way of industrial development in this economically and industrially backward district of Assam. It is also my endeavour to throw some light on the industrial development of the district. I born and brought up in the un-divided Goalpara district. During the last twenty years I have been witnessing economic activities of rural and urban people of this district. There is a acute unemployment problem and people are becoming poorer day-by-day. There are abundant resources for industrial development but these are not fully utilised. I have been selecting this topic "A study on the problems and prospects of Industrial Development of un-divided Goalpara
District, Assam", so as to assist the people of my district through industrialisation process for their socio-economic development.

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