INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem:

Crime is a universal phenomenon. It has always been an integral part of civilisation. But what concerns us today and makes it a major public issue is that its incidence has been going up in all parts of the world and among all segments of society. The recent growth rate of crime has not only been unprecedented but also has been accelerating. New forms of crime are emerging and old forms are assuming new dimensions. The tremendous advances in technology has resulted into rapid growth in urbanisation and industrialisation. The social structure influenced by techno-industrial-urban complexes offers a setting conducive to crime so much so that a number of scholars, like Baldwin and Bottoms (1976) consider crime largely as an urban phenomenon. However, it does not mean that rural areas are free from crime; it only indicates that urban community is more prone to crime.

The incidence of crime does not only vary from urban to rural areas, but also from one area to another rural or urban depending upon a number of factors. But since the study of crime has long been a field of sociology and criminology which have been laggards in taking account of space, spatial dimensions of the crime process have been seriously neglected in much of the criminological work.

Geographers are the latecomers in the field of study of crime. It is now felt that the geographical perspectives and methods can add a dimension, hitherto largely neglected, to the broad field of criminology. However, as David Herbert (1982, 1)
acknowledges, "geographical perspectives have no special claims in relation to problem-solving but rather offer a limited and partial role which must ultimately be fused with the limited and partial roles offered by the disciplines in the attempt to understand the phenomena being investigated".

Since crime is a matter of major concern to society, it must be checked. Although crime, being an integral part of civilisation, cannot be eradicated altogether from society, it can definitely be kept within limits. The task of maintaining peace and order is delegated internally to the police. Thus, policing is another important aspect of criminology. But this aspect has so far been almost totally neglected by geographers and there has been relatively little research into the effectiveness of different policing strategies. Smith (1977) pleads that "the extent of spatial disparities in the level of crime and the essentially spatial nature of manpower deployment in crime prevention makes this a particularly fruitful topic for geographical enquiry".

The present study is an humble attempt in this direction.

The land locked tract of Chhattisgarh has remained relatively peaceful. Its wild and sublime beauty has always fascinated people. Easy means of livelihood favoured growth of art, literature and religion, but it made the people easy going and docile. The situation was least conducive to crime. But the rapid economic growth caused mainly by the setting up of a number of industrial and mining projects has brought a number of vices alongwith economic prosperity in the region. The magnitude of
crime has increased and new forms of crime have emerged. Police facilities have been increased, but it may be noted that the policing alone cannot prevent the crime. The roots of crime extends deep into the structure of society. Deployment/re-deployment of police personnel attacks only symptoms, not causes.

The study aims at analysing different types of crime in the spatio-temporal frame with reference to the socio-economic status of the population, and socio-economic background and demographic characteristics of the criminals. The second aspect of the study is the pattern of spatial allocation of police personnel and its relationship with the incidence of crime. Policing is a tertiary social service. Its distributional pattern has been analysed with reference to the central place theory so as to identify gaps in police protection distribution. Based on the analysis of the existing spatial patterns of crime and policing an attempt has been made to formulate a future policy regarding policing if it is more necessary to increase the sheet: number of policemen or to equip them with modern communication devices with only marginal increase in number, and to formulate a plan for improvement of spatial pattern of policing in the region under study.

Approaches to the study of Crime:

The criminological concepts have evolved over a long span of time and tend to reflect broader shifts within the social sciences as a whole. The 'Classical School' which was founded in the 18th century by Bentham and Beccaria was "strongly related to the doctrine of free will. It sought to reduce punishment
for criminal offences and in this sense predated modern reformative attitudes" (Herbert, 1982, 22)

The above perspective was replaced by the 'Positivist' approaches. The positive school developed in the 19th century was an attempt to apply scientific methods to the study of the criminal. This school focused attention on crime as a psychological entity. This school had deterministic views about criminal causation. The founding father of the school Lombroso viewed crime as distinctly related to the physical endowment of the criminal. This crude physical/biological approach was followed by a number of other deterministic approaches. A geographical approach attempted to demonstrate the influences of climate, topography and natural resources on crime; a biological approach sought to relate crime to heredity; a Physiological and biochemical approach correlated crime with both normal and abnormal physiological functions and types; and so on. The deterministic approach conceived criminal causation to develop from a single factor, and thus it had a partial and not the comprehensive view.

During the present century pluralistic approaches with multi-causal view of crime emerged. Human Ecology School of Chicago stimulated ecological approach in criminology. It investigated the impact of the spatial distribution of men and institutions upon behaviour patterns. Thus the ecological approach considered only social, economic and man-made aspects of environment rather than natural or physical. This approach formed the basis of the development of a number of criminological theories. The theory of Social Disorganization suggests that in the absence of a stable from of society, precipitatity conditions of
criminality will exist. The **Subcultural** theory asserts that delinquent or criminal behaviour is the result of participation by the offender in a delinquent sub-culture. The **Differential Association** theory indicates that criminal patterns are learned and transmitted from one person to another through interaction or association. The theory of **Deviant Behaviour** is based on Durkheim's concept of **Anomie**, a normlessness resulting from inadequate social solidarity. The Marxists argue that all crime results from the exploitation of one class by another, and that therefore crime will disappear when a classless society is achieved.

David Herbert (1982) provides a framework for a geography of crime. There are three levels in the framework, namely social formation (level-1 production), allocative process (level 2 - distribution), and space (level-3 consumption). Police is included in level 2. Space comprises of patterns (Crime areas) processes (spatial behaviour), and responses (Sub-culture, meaning of place). The framework affords space a central position, and at this level geographers are equipped to play a major role. Space forms the basis of the present study, and spatial patterns have been analysed with reference to ecological (human and natural both) factors.

**Overview of Literature:**

Criminological literature is quite impressive, but the geographical literature on crime is meagre and on policing negligible. The use of maps to show regional variations in crime rates and particularly rural-urban differences were started as early as 1830s. The use of maps was frequent during 1830-80 and thus a cartographic school of criminology had emerged first in France and then in other European countries. Guerry (1833) used a series of annual reports to analyse regional variations
in crime in France. Fletcher (1849) provided a similar analysis of English crime statistics. Mayhew (1862) did more systematic studies of intracity variations in crime rates. With the development of ecology school in 1920s and 1930s in America, the use of maps increased and areal variations in crime were studied with reference to geographical factors. In this respect the most noteworthy work was done by Shaw and McKay (1942). Intra-urban spatial variations in crime were later studied by a number of scholars like Lander (1954), Schmid (1960), Chilton (1964), Gordon (1967), Baldwin and Bottoms (1976) etc.

As regards regional studies of crime, the work of Lottier (1938), Shannon (1954) and Harries (1971) deserve special mention. Lottier emphasized the significance of cultural environments in the discrimination of crime regions. Shannon replicated Lottier's regional approach. The contribution of Harries in the geographical study of crime is considerable. His research article entitled "The Geography of American crime 1968" (1971) and book entitled "The Geography of Crime and Justice" have popularized the study of crime among geographers. Harries (1980) has highlighted the relationship between crime and environment in his book "Crime and the Environment". The other eminent geographers who have contributed in the development of this branch of the discipline are Smith, Peet, Herbert, Davidson, Paul and Patricia Brantingham. Smith's article "Crime Rates as Territorial Social Indicators" (1974) is a noteworthy work. He has strongly pleaded the case of geographical enquiry of crime and manpower deployment in crime prevention. Peet's article "The Geography of

Unlike other branches of administration, Police attracted little attention of social scientists. No critical study has been made about geographical pattern of policing.

In 1932 J.C. Curry wrote an excellent book on Indian police, depicting its character and inherent weaknesses. Bayley, David H (1969) wrote an exhaustive research paper on police and political development in India.

He suggested creative role for police in future developmental activities. A number of books touching different aspects of police have been written by Ex-Police Officers and other scholars. Among them S.K. Chaturvedi on Rural Policing (1958) Ajai K. Mehra on police in changing India (1985), V.C. Simhadri on criminal Tribes (1979); M. Kennedy on criminal classes, (1985); A.K.Panday on developmental administration and local Police (1987); B.N. Mullik on philosophy for police (1965); Ghosa on Police leadership 1977; P.D. Sharma on Police and Criminal Justice Administration (1985); Dr. Rajinder Parshar on Police Administration (1986); D.N. Kaul on Police and society 1988: are some of the books written on the subject. However no serious attempt has been made to study the police in its geographical perspective.
Police is a state subject. Central Government has little control on law and order and policing in India. First serious attempt was made in 1902-1903 by appointing Indian Police Commission to advise to improve the effectiveness of police. Almost for three quarter of a century, nothing was done at All India level to scrutinise the working of police. Although necessity was always felt to improve the structure and distribution of police activity, in view of changing socio-economic political condition. In 1979, the second National Police Commission was appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri Dharma Vira, retired Governor. The other members were N.K. Reddy, K.F. Rustamji; N.S. Saxena; Prof. M.S. Gore and C.V. Narsimmohan. Commission in its 8 reports suggested ways and means to improve the functioning of police service of India. Unfortunately nothing substantial has been done to implement the recommendations of the commission. The State Governments appointed Police commissions in their respective states from time to time. Bihar police commission 1961, Madhya Pradesh Police Commission 1965-66, Maharashtra Police Commission 1964. Assam Police Commission 1971 presented there reports to their respective state governments. They failed to suggest any fundamental change in the police administrative system.

DATA:

The district and police stations are the two important units which distribute police service. Police station is the smallest unit from which service emanates, and where crime registers are maintained, police duties are distributed and process of prevention, detection, and prosecution of crime and maintenance of law and order is organised. Data in respect of crime, criminals and police deployment
were collected from each of the 137 police stations of the region. The data of crime is also compiled at district and state level. Data of police man power, equipments, crimes and criminals have been collected from offices of district Superintendent. Data about criminals have been collected from police station records. The data about age, caste, place of offence, place of birth, place of stay of criminals have been collected from police station records and from hundreds of case diaries. Data about human offences committed by gangs with specific modus operandi were collected from modus operandi bureau of district, computer wing of police headquarters and statistical cell of C.I.D. For comparative study data were collected from crime reports of the M.P. and other states.

The author visited almost all police stations of the region and consulted the old inspection notes written by supervisory officers. The analysis of crime, criminal and policing was vividly described which helped to compare the historical perspective of crime pattern. Gazetteer of Raipur and Bilaspur of the year 1909 were useful for comparing the administrative changes. Head constable Moharrirs (writer) of each police station helped in collecting personal information about criminals.

The present work is based on personal observation, interviews and secondary data collected from a number of published and unpublished police records. During his long tenure of postings as Superintendent and then as Deputy Inspector General of police in Chhattisgarh the author met a cross section of people including rich
and poor, criminal and law abiding, rural and urban, and so on and had an opportunity to watch the general behaviour of people closely. This long observation, which forms a basis of any geographical writing, helped the author in understanding the problem and formulating an appropriate policy.

Plan of the Thesis:

The thesis has been divided into five chapters.

Chapter 1 entitled "Physical and Cultural Setting" introduces the region with respect to its administrative units, physiography, climate, social history and demographic characteristics, agriculture, industry and transport. The discussion of these physical and cultural factors is necessary as they play a major role in influencing the crime pattern and its prevention.

Chapter 2 entitled "Crime" elucidates the concept of crime and explains the spatial pattern of the incidence of different types of crime. The growth of crime has also been analysed in this chapter.

Chapter 3 deals with "Criminals." The socio-economic background of a criminal, family condition, age, sex, occupation of the family, economic cause of committing crime, Place of criminal and place of crime are some of the subjects which have been dealt with in detail. The criminal tribes get a special mention in this chapter. Since a large number of criminals from U.P., Haryana, Delhi, Gujrat, and Maharashtra operate in this region and commit offences, analysis of their movement and area of their operation has been discussed.
Chapter 4 deals with police service distribution in Chhattisgarh region. In the first place, history of policing and classification of police forces in the region have been discussed. The distribution pattern of police service centres, hierarchical and spatial distribution of police personnel have been discussed in detail. The social economic status of policemen has been considered. The composition of police force in respect of their place of birth has been analysed.

Chapter 5 entitled "Planning" deals with proposal to distribute the region under new pattern. Rapid urbanization and economic-political factors have generated new problems for the region. Spatial patterns of distribution of police service centre are found to be inadequate and ill-arranged. Attempt has been made to provide a model for the future policing. Concept of commissioner of Police system has been advocated for Bhilai, Raipur, and Korba towns, which have all the ingredients of a modern industrial town. At present there are only five police districts. According to new model 3 commissionerate of Police and 10 districts have been proposed. To fill up the gaps, opening of new police stations are proposed.

The quality of man power is proposed to be upgraded. New pattern of man power ratio has been proposed so that police service can be balanced at a higher level. Measures for crime control are suggested. The future pattern of crime is projected.

Chhattisgarh is not an administrative unit at present. But it has a historical and geographical personality. It covers 5 districts of the state of
M.P., i.e. Rajnandgaon, Durg, Raipur, Bilapur, and Raigarh. There are 137 police stations in the region, which are the basic unit for this research.