III

PREFACE

"Cattle marketing system and its network in Aurangabad district" is probably the first study of its kind undertaken by me relating to this area. However, a few of the geographers have done their research work on the cattle marketing system in other areas or the districts of Maharashtra. As a cattle marketing system and a network constitutes a major significant aspects of marketing geography, its investigation and related problems have been selected for this thesis.

The primary data has been obtained from the personal survey of cattle marketing centres in the district during the years 1994-96. The data collection has been done according to the questionnaires given in Appendix VII. The discussions with the officials of Gram Panchayat, Nagar Parishad, Corporation have also been helped a lot in completing this work. Besides, the data has been obtained from the District Statistical offices. The statistical abstracts of Aurangabad district (1991 to 1998), published by Economics and Statistical Directorate, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai has been found to be of a valuable asset. Again the interviews with the sellers, buyers, middlemen or Dalals were taken during the cattle market survey. The discussions with the farmers who sell and purchase cattle in various market centres proved to be helpful in understanding the problems connected with cattle marketing system.

All the 42 cattle marketing places and 10 cattle fairs in the district have been visited by me. It is found that, except few-cattle market places like Paithan, Kannad, Gangapur; Vaijaypur and Aurangabad Cantonment cattle market, all the cattle markets are located in the rural areas
IV

of the district.

This research project on the cattle marketing system of Aurangabad district has been divided into 8 Chapters.

The first chapter is dealt with the introduction, the nature of marketing geography including the importance of cattle markets. It includes the cattle wealth and cattle markets in India, the significance of study, aims and objectives of study, the planning of the study, problems of terminology, the review of literature on cattle wealth and markets. This chapter also throws light on the study area of Aurangabad district with its location, physical set up including relief, drainage, climate, soil, natural vegetation, the major characteristics of cattle markets and cattle fairs, agricultural system, population and livestock, network of transportation and communication in general. In the second chapter, an attempt has been made to throw light on the origin and evolution of the cattle markets and their functions. The topics of concerned in this chapter are the origin centres and the domestication of cattle, evolution of cattle markets, the markets in the ancient, medieval periods the markets and marketing system in the British period, in the modern period. The functions of cattle markets are dealt with this chapter. The third chapter covers the spatio-temporal distribution of cattle market places and interaction of cattle sellers, buyers, middlemen etc. The spatio-temporal distribution of cattle markets is analysed according to talukas, the physiographic units and various population sizes. The spatial interaction of farmer-sellers, buyers, cattle dealers, the field distance travelled by cattle traders, cattle drovers, the itinerant seller's and trader's cattle market cycles and market efficiency are also studied thoroughly in this chapter. The fourth chapter comprises the role of sellers, buyers, middlemen and the service areas of cattle market
places. The topics studied in this chapter are the socio-economic status of buyers and sellers, the cattle wealth of farmer-sellers, buyers, the classification of sellers and buyers, the distribution of cattle sellers and the volume of attendance of buyers in the cattle markets, and the role of middlemen. The chapter is also dealt with the source area, cattle breeds, the selection of market place, the reasons for sale and purchase of cattle, diseases of cattle, slaughter houses, the sources of income to the markets and the service areas of markets. In the fifth chapter, an attempt has been made to analyse the hierarchical pattern of the periodical cattle market centres of the district. The chapter covers the important studies on the determination of hierarchy of market centres, variables used for hierarchical orders of cattle markets. The first order, second order and third order cattle markets are explained on the basis of scores of variables. The correlation of these orders of markets is discussed with the physical units of Aurangabad district. The Sixth Chapter comprises the transportation system of the district. In this chapter an attempt is made to explain the existing transport system, intensity of transport system. The relationship of the network of transport with the cattle markets, types of transports, hierarchical level of market centres and transportation etc. are considered for the study. The seventh chapter throws light on the investigation of services available at cattle market places. The services such as post, telegraph, telephone, transport, banking services, education, veterinary, medical services, amenities of water, fodder etc are essential. The correlative relationship between the services and market places has been analysed. The eighth chapter covers the conclusion and the recommendatory measures. In this chapter, the geographical disposition of cattle marketing system of the Aurangabad district has been analysed, delineated and supported by concluding observations and
VI

suggested for the stability and development of cattle market places.

This research study was completed in spite of certain difficulties in getting data on certain points. However, the farmer-sellers and buyers in the cattle markets helped a lot in doing this research work in spite of a direct or language problem and limits of timings. While doing research work, the major factor which kept in mind was to bring together the spatial locational patterns of the cattle markets, the role of participants, hierarchy of markets, transportation system and finding out the problems of cattle marketing system of the district. Besides, my friends and esteemed colleagues encouraged me a lot, therefore, this work has been completed.

I am aware that there might be still some frontiers which might have remained unconquered. To the best of researcher's capacities, I have made a poineering effort in exploring one of the fields of marketing geography for which the cattle marketing system and its network has been selected for the study of Aurangabad district. The references are given at the end of each chapter from chapter no. 1 to 7 and the bibliography is referred in Appendix I at the end of last chapter of this project in alphabetical order.

The research project may prove instructive and useful for the regional development and for the improvement of cattle markets by setting up of the necessary infrastructure.