PREFACE

Water is one of man's most important assets. It is required for domestic, public, industrial and agricultural purposes.

Water is therefore an essential factor in economic, social and cultural development of a community. It is not only a refreshing drink and an effective cleansing agent but also a vital medicine, it can eliminate water borne diseases, promote rural development and improve the quality of life.

Water is adversely affected both qualitatively and quantitatively by all kinds of human activities. Unparalleled increase in human population coupled with unprecedented development at industrial and agricultural front has put tremendous pressure on our aquatic ecosystems, especially on fresh water. It is important to recognise here that the fresh water ecosystems are most delicately balanced ecosystems and get easily disrupted by various human activities.

The physical and chemical contents in natural water are orderly and play an important role in keeping the water healthy and acceptable for various uses. However pollution of any kind affects the physico-chemical characteristics of water and bring disorder in the aquatic ecosystems.

In view of the present rate of generation of
sewage and already loaded aquatic resources, it has been increasingly recognised that disposal of sewage into fresh water poses a variety of hazards. In order to stop pollution of water the first requirement is to assess the quality and quantity of drinking water study of literature on this subject, revealed that very little works has been done so far in this direction.

It was therefore decided to make a systematic survey of the quality of drinking water available in and around Aurangabad.