PREFACE

The plantation system of ‘Tea - the green gold of Assam’ is a product of colonialism. Tea is the pride factor of Assam and the real toilers of making it a pride are the tea garden labours. As the tea labours constitutes 20% of the total population of Assam so the importance was felt to assess their political participation. It has been many years that this community has been playing an important role in politics. The present study is an attempt to examine the political participation of the tea garden labourers of Muttrapore tea estate of Sivasagar district of Assam. Not much study has been done on this aspect. There are six chapters in this thesis.

The first chapter entitled ‘Introduction’ discusses thoroughly the meaning and definition of the term political participation, factor affecting the political participation, statement of the problem, aims and objectives of the study, methodology, scheme of chapters and review of the literature.

In the chapter-II entitled ‘A Panorama of the study area’ discussion has been made on the socio-cultural and economic life of the tea garden labours have been presented at length. The chapter deals with the education institutions in the study area and its impact in enhancing awareness. The economic aspect of the tea garden labours of the tea garden labours of the study area is also highlighted in the chapter.