

## PREFACE

Water is a precious, natural resource for the mankind and all living species of the world. Water is the key element that runs round like the blood stream to make production. Hence irrigation supplements rain in ensuring that production loss is minimum. Man has been practicing irrigation ever since he started growing raw food materials for his sustenance and has been all the time searching for a source and a means of conducting the water. Water is applied to the crops grown at the right time in the right quantity. Irrigation, which developed as an art in ancient times, is now being fast recognized as a science and an irrigation engineer is always proud to help the farmers. Therefore, it is interesting to study the irrigation development in Tiruchirappalli district. Tiruchirappalli is situated in the central part of Tamil Nadu. It occupied a prominent place in the socio-economic, educational and political transactions. The economy of the district is essentially agrarian in character.

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