2.1. **HYPOTHESIS**

The following problems, however, were identified and sought to be addressed and have been kept in mind during the entire analysis and length of research:

1. The improper implementation of the Law, Govt. circulars, Notifications and Orders on Essential Commodities have resulted in mal-distribution;
2. Black-marketing of the dealers & corruption of the Public officials creates artificial scarcity and non-even distribution of Essential Commodities.
3. The budgetary subsidy is unable to reach the beneficiaries for whom it is provided.
4. Absence of stringent Penal liability creates proliferation of Essential Commodity related offences.

2.2. **METHODOLOGY**

1. In the present study the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, various related Acts, Judgments of High Courts and Supreme Court of India, views and suggestions of the connected public authorities and other stakeholders are analysed in a very reasoned manner keeping in mind the history of the defects of the Law on production, supply and distribution, etc. of essential commodities.
2. The historical, analytical and case study methods are adopted for judicious assessment and advancement of remedial measures, with special reference to the State of Orissa.

2.2.1 Sources of data

Owing to the dearth of literature on the Law relating to Essential Commodities, most of the research consists of data compiled from case laws, reports and empirical data such as views/suggestions of stakeholders.

2.2.2 Method of citation

A uniform mode of citation is used throughout the paper.