PREFACE

Transport and Civilisation have been coexisting for thousands of years. To set society in motion without transportation is just like one's determination to weave a rope of sand. Presently, of the several means of transport in India, road transport has come to the forefront by playing a major role in the economy of the nation. Of course, only a sound road transport sector will have to shoulder the major responsibility in the 21st Century. In the 50th year of Indian independence, the present study makes an attempt to highlight the strength and weaknesses of roads and motor transport development over the last five decades. The present study also throws light on the efficiency of Goods Transport Operators in Himachal Pradesh and the reactions of the Bankers as regards goods carrier financing. For that, a survey has also been undertaken. Thus the findings of the present study are based on secondary as well as primary data. Further, the present study has been divided into eight chapters.

Chapter first, INTRODUCTION, begins with the origin & significance of transportation and throws light on transport resources of India.

Chapter second, REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND RESEARCH DESIGN, deals with the empirical works relating to transport sector in India as well as abroad and research design highlight the need, scope and objectives of the present study alongwith the research methodology used to accomplish the objectives set herein.

Chapter third, ROAD TRANSPORT : AN INDIAN SCENE, makes a detailed analysis of trends as regards the development of roads and motor transport in India over the last five decades.

Chapter fourth, GOODS TRANSPORT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, summarises the impact of expanding transport facilities on the overall development of the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Chapter fifth, AN EMPIRICAL OVERVIEW OF GOODS TRANSPORT OPERATORS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH : A BASIC PROFILE, gives an empirical
overview of Goods Transport Operators as regards certain fundamental requisites of this profession.

Chapter sixth, AN EMPIRICAL OVERVIEW OF GOODS TRANSPORT OPERATORS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH: AN OPERATIONAL ASPECT, throws light on the strength and weaknesses of a Goods Transport profession. The analysis has been based on the pattern of response shown by the Goods Transport Operators in Himachal Pradesh.

Chapter seventh, AN EMPIRICAL OVERVIEW OF BANKERS REGARDING GOODS CARRIER FINANCING IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, focuses on the Banker's perception as regards financing a goods carrier proposals and also as regards the behaviour of a truck borrower's account.

Chapter eighth, CONCLUSION, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS, presents the summary, findings, suggestions and identification of areas for future research so as to bring further improvement in the road transport sector for the benefit of an individual as well as the Nation.

It is hope that various issues as has been focussed in present study will rejuvenate the thinking of an Individuals, an Operator, a financing Banker, the Government Authorities and the Society at large to make their valuable contributions in this field.