The modern complexity of industrial world, which is characterised by complicated mechanism, intricate job requirements and fast moving production lines, has made the life of industrial workers full of risks and hazards. Thus, industrial accidents have become a regular feature of the modern industrial life. Unfortunately, the percentage of the accidents in Indian industries is comparatively higher than in the industrially advanced countries of the West.

An accident not only causes physical pain and in some cases even death and financial loss to the worker but also interrupts production causing financial loss to the employer besides burden of compensation which has to pay to the injured worker or the dependent of the deceased worker in the case of 'fatal' accident. In order to overcome or reduce the percentage of industrial accidents various industries establish safety committees to investigate unsafe conditions, to suggest methods of improvement, and to develop educational material. In smaller companies, safety function may be assigned to the plant superintendent. In bigger organisations, safety committees may make periodic inspections and recommendations regarding safe practices and procedures. The management is eager to accept recommendations for prevention of accidents. There are general as well as personal factors which are responsible for accidents.

Majority of the industrial accidents are preventable. For this purpose the safety programme, other voluntary steps and statutory steps like legislative measures can be undertaken. The management should take the opportunity of learning from the mistakes. Similarly, the safety programme should be enforced rigorously to obtain desired results. The challenge of industrial accidents can be effectively met to a great extent if the statutory provisions regarding accident prevention are
strictly adhered to. Besides the employer's and their associations, workers and their trade unions and other voluntary bodies should also play the role expected for them. Only then industrial accidents can be prevented.

I have visited number of companies situated in and around Pune and collected information by the survey method, interviews of the workers, management, trade union leaders/members. I have also referred to innumerable books, reports, periodicals, magazines, newspapers, accident and safety manuals of different companies. My visits to industries became very fruitful in completing my Ph. D. Thesis.

I am sure that prevention of the industrial accidents will help industrial community better in future to maintain harmonious industrial relations and lasting industrial peace to tackle in an effective manner the resultant problems and to attain human welfare in the new millennium.

MARCH 31, 2003 GIRISH B. GUNDESHA