The following study was completed in the period between 1971 and 1975. The second half of 1975 was spent by me in London and I availed of the facilities of the University of London Library and the London School of Economics and Political Science Library. I also received considerable advice from Mr. David Pendrill, Mr. R. Alford and Dr. Dipak Majumdar, all of the London School of Economics. I would take this opportunity to acknowledge my gratitude to them.

I was drawn to the subject by Sree Arun Ghosh of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants. Professor Asian Datta, formerly Head of the Department of Economics, Calcutta University, and now Vice-Chancellor, North Bengal University, has been a constant source of encouragement. This study has been prepared under the general supervision of Sree R. Datta, Reader in the Department of Economics Calcutta University. My thanks to all of them.

Lastly I convey my sincere gratitude to my father Sree A.N. Mukherjee for his kind co-operation all through my study.

Bijaylakshmi Mukhopadhyay