P R E F A C E

Unemployment is, in the same way as in the rest of India, one of the most distressing problems in West Bengal. Any body who holds the view that it is a fundamental problem, giving birth to many others, can hardly be contradicted. Any attempt, therefore, to present a true picture of even a facet of this problem of problems, however limited in scope it may be, is not unworthy of undertaking. As agriculture occupies a crucial position in the economy of West Bengal, the importance of a special study of this problem in this field cannot be over-emphasised.

The problem under study is, however, more complicated than may appear on the surface. Discovering the true picture of the employment position in the agricultural branch of rural economy is rendered difficult by the phenomenon of underemployment. This problem of underemployment in agriculture has, in the main, been taken into consideration in the present project and a serious attempt has been made to study this problem in its proper perspective, the objective being an assessment of the nature and extent of employment in the field of agriculture in some of the districts of the State of West Bengal.