PREFACE

Of late a number of scholarly works have been written on different aspects of Indian Economic Development. This thesis is an humble attempt to throw some light on a hitherto neglected field — the changing panorama of the small towns with special emphasis on the growth of commercial interdependence among them in the context of the country's Five-year Plans. This somewhat arduous work could not have been completed but for the enormous help which I received from different quarters. Prof. Dhiren Bhattacharya, Professor of Public Finance, Dept. of Economics, Calcutta University was kind enough to supervise my work and helped me by not only providing valuable suggestions and guidance right from the beginning, but also by going through the entire manuscript at the cost of his valuable time. I also take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my revered teachers — Dr. S.N. Sen, ex-Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University and Dr. S.K. Bhattacharya, Head of the Dept. of Economics, Calcutta University, both of whom inspired me by their constant encouragement and kind co-operation. I shall also remain grateful to Sri Priyatosh Maitra, at present of the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, because it was actually due to his inspiration that the idea of this research-project first came to my mind. My thanks are due to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, who sanctioned financial assistance for the project during 1969-70. In addition, I received a good deal of help
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