This thesis is a theoretical-cum-empirical study of the role of administration in the rural development of West Bengal with special reference to the development work in the district of Burdwan. The writer believes that theory and practice are mutually helpful towards the achievement of truth — a real scientific vision. Field work is a basis of the practical approach to the theoretical conception. The wide perception in the practical field helps to enlighten the theoretical conception. Thus the writer relies not only upon available literature but also upon his personal field experience in the preparation of his thesis.

A research worker has to rely on a number of assistance for his field data. The writer is fully conscious of the fact that the field is the centre of his work. To no other source he is more indebted.
than to those of his field-friends who gave him honest and correct information. The writer expresses his gratitude to the officers of Burdwan district viz. Sabhadhipati, Zilla Parishad, District Panchayat Officer, District Planning Officer, District Relief Officer, S.D.O., Officers of the Agriculture Department, Block Development Officers, Project Officer, District Rural Development Agency, Additional District Magistrate (Land Reforms), Special Officer, Tribal Welfare, Manager, District Industries Centre and specially to the District Magistrate of Burdwan, for their kind co-operation.

The idea of carrying on an empirical study on the role of administration in the rural development of West Bengal with special reference to the development work of the district of Burdwan was first infused in the mind of the writer by Dr. Shib Nath Banerjee, Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Burdwan University, who personally helped him in many ways and even, at times, went with him to the field for investigation. Indeed, but for his help, this thesis would not have seen the light of the day. The writer is also greatly
indebted to Dr. B. Ganguly, Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, for his valuable suggestions to improve the quality of the work.

*****