ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My interest in the field of rural industrialisation was first raised by Prof. Krishna Bharadwaj under whose supervision I already worked on Share-Tenancy in West Bengal Agriculture for my M.Phil. Dissertation. Rural Industrialisation in West Bengal seemed to be an area where the scope of further development was considerable and it could be an interesting area of research. This work started in 1990 under the supervision of Prof. Bharadwaj. Unfortunately, in the early stage when my ideas were gradually taking their concrete shape under her careful guidance, she left us for ever. I have no words to express my gratitude to her.

This thesis would not have been what it is but for Prof. Prabhat Patnaik's careful guidance. He shouldered the responsibility of supervising my work in spite of his extremely busy schedule. He meticulously read all my drafts and advised necessary modifications. It was under his apt skill that my scattered ideas took a concrete shape in the form of a thesis. I express my deep sense of gratitude and respect to Prof. Prabhat Patnaik.

I am most grateful to my teacher, Dr. Manoj Kumar Sanyal and Prof. Parthasarathi Banerjee and Dr. Biswajit Dhar for their invaluable suggestions and constant moral support during the long course of my work. Further, Dr. Dhar and Dr. Sanyal went through the manuscripts and helped me finalise my thesis. I wish to thank Prof Amiya Kumar Bagchi for making valuable suggestions, Prof Utsa Patnaik, Prof C.P. Chandrasekhar and Satyabrata Sen for providing valuable information and materials from their personal collections.

I received numerous help from my friends, Jay, Saumitra, Nihsim, Dipankar and Madan who accompanied me in course of my field survey. Without their help, field survey would not have been completed within such a short span of time.

I availed facilities of JNU Library, Ratan Tata Library, IIPA Library, Library of College of Vocational Studies and National Library and CSSS Library, Calcutta. I wish to thank their librarians and other staff for making the facilities available to me.

Of my friends and colleagues whose names deserve special mention are Samiran, Nilkamal, Sundar, Sanchita, Vinay, Ashok Raj, Sadhan, Aniruddha, Pinaky, Krishnendu, Ananya, Akash, Raju, Partha, Dipen, Saikat, Subrato, Tilak, Kishalay and Mr. V.K.Kaul.

I am grateful to the Principal, and the colleague in the Department of Economics, College of Vocational Studies, Delhi University, and the students and Faculty of the Centre for Economic Studies
and Planning, JNU, for providing the academic atmosphere and the facilities which enabled me to complete the thesis. I wish to thank the CESP staff, Mr. Rajagopal, Mr. Bist and Mr. Bache Singh for their help.

I received substantial encouragement from Dr. Mandira Sanyal, my parents, uncles and my brothers, Shyamal Biswas and Uttam Biswas during the long course of my work.

Of late my wife, Papiya, gave me all her support which helped quicken the process of completing the thesis; she however declines to accept thanks from me.

P. K. Biswas
(PRADIP KUMAR BISWAS)