PREFACE

Orissa represents the paradox of poverty in the land of plenty. Despite its vast natural and human resources, Orissa continues to be less developed State exhibiting the characteristics of underdevelopment. It is virtually the store house of ores and minerals with 18.6% of the total mineral reserve of the country. Mineral resources are the most important and valuable resources which has major contribution in the development of a state.

No systematic study has been made so far on the utilisation of mineral resources produced in the State. In the present study efforts has been made to findout regional disparities prevailing in the State basing on the overall development status of different districts due to diversified geographical features and other factors. The study also includes mineral development potential and utilisation of all major minerals. Regional development plans have been suggested basing upon the industrial development of the districts with special emphasis to remove the regional disparities. The industrial activities have to be geared up to make the State earn a special position in mineral and industrial map of the country. This study will help geographers, planners, entrepreneurs and other agencies in various aspects of mineral and industrial development.

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