PREFACE

The Co-operative Movement started in India with the avowed object of rescuing the farmers from the clutches of money-lenders. The co-operative sector is an important instrument for changing the rural economy. One of the central aims of national policy is to build a co-operative sector as a part of the scheme of planned development. This sector combines the advantages of other forms of business organisation, and acts as a balancing sector between private and public sectors.

Co-operation has been playing an important role in the industrial front also. The industries in co-operative sector represent a new dimension in our industrial structure. The co-operative sector has also participated in productive activities by organising industrial co-operatives. This sector is most suitable for organising certain decentralised industries and for preserving traditional cottage and village industries.

The development of industrial co-operatives in India can be traced only to the early decades of the nineteenth century. The country is one among those who have made
some progress in the co-operative industrial front. Today the co-operative sector is mainly undertaking productive activities like handlooms, powerlooms, spinning, sugar, processing, fertilizers and a broad list of village industries. The Government has been endeavouring to promote cottage industries and other agro-based industries on co-operative basis. The industrial co-operative movement in India was comparatively very slow during the pre-plan period, and was accelerated during the plan periods.

The objectives of the present study are to analyse the growth and development of industrial co-operatives in Andhra Pradesh, their present position, financial structure, management, production, marketing arrangements, personnel management and industrial relations, and their financial performance. In an industrially developing State like Andhra Pradesh, industrial co-operatives claim an important place. It has a judicious combination of various industries in the co-operative sector, of large, medium and small scale industries. The State has been preserving our traditional heritage by promoting cottage, village and other agro-industries in the co-operative sector. Thus, this sector in the industrial structure of the State, has been contributing significantly to the economy in terms of capital, investment, production, and employment.

In order to make a thorough and intensive study, the thesis is divided into ten chapters. The first chapter deals with
the origin, history of growth and development of the co-operative movement in India. The second chapter is devoted to the growth and development of the industrial co-operative movement in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The third chapter is assigned to the study of the financial structure of industrial co-operatives. The fourth chapter covers the organisation and management set-up of industrial societies. The fifth chapter presents the production aspects and trends of industrial co-operatives according to the nature of various products. The sixth chapter is designed to bring out the marketing pattern of industrial societies. In the seventh chapter, the financial performance of industries in the co-operative sector is presented. Chapter eight deals with personnel management and industrial relations in industrial co-operatives. The ninth chapter covers problems, and suggestions relating to the industrial co-operatives and the tenth chapter concludes the study with main findings and observations.

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