PREFATORY REMARKS

It has been an exceedingly exhilarating experience to work on a fascinating subject like "Indian Shipping". The efforts were spread over a period of five years to produce this elaborate work, the first of its kind undertaken on a comprehensive basis to fully cover the post war developments and problems of Indian Shipping, as also the appraisal of the Government of India's shipping policy. The detailed account of the mercantile marine policies of a few important countries, is added as a special feature.

It is well known, that the literature on the subject is very scanty since 'Transport' in general is relatively a neglected subject in most Indian universities. There again 'shipping', an important branch, is still less recognised by the academic world; for the purpose of instituting any serious research. I am, therefore, highly grateful to Prof. B.G. Shah, till recently the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, the M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda, and now Professor of Finance in the Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for suggesting to me this subject. However, when I started exploring the field, I had only vague outlines of the subject in my mind. It was largely on account of continuous discussions with him and his inspiring guidance as my technical guide, that the work could be successfully completed. It is difficult to acknowledge my indebtedness to him, either in written or spoken words.

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was kind enough to send me his very useful and stimulating writings on the subject. Shri G.L. Mehta, the Ex-Chairman of the Shipping Board and Shri C.P. Srivastava, till recently the Managing Director of the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., (now appointed Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Secretariat), discussed with me the Government of India's Shipping policy and are responsible in a large measure for contributing to my understanding on the matter. Shri H.P. Oza, the former Director of the Gujarat Ports and now the Director of Engineering Research Institute, Baroda took a personal interest in my work and was kind enough to discuss at elaborate lengths, matters pertaining to development of ports. Dr. F.P. Antia, the President of the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association gave valuable insight into the problems of transport Coordination. Shri P.T. Dalal and Shri Maru (now retired) of Scindias, gave me the necessary insight into the problems of overseas as well as the coastal shipping of our country, in a number of meetings. Shri Govind Seth, the Senior Deputy Director General of Shipping also extended to me his courtesy and discussed with me the problems of freight fixation in our coastal trade and difficulties of Indian shippers. Srimati Sumati Morarji, Executive Director of Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., Bombay was kind enough to give me the permission to use the library of the Company. She also put me in contact with a few of the company's Officers for explaining to me the various facets of the subject. Shri H.N. Desai, Manager of the Scindias was good enough to discuss a few of shipping matters. I am extremely thankful to all of them.

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