The Small Industrial Sector being an effective and speedy tool of educated and skilled employment, my interest in the affairs of this sector was roused by the sight of extensive unemployment of educated and skilled youths of Cachar District on the one hand and its low level of economic growth on the other in spite of bright potentials for economic development. In the course of discharging my professional obligations as well as to satisfy my own inquisitiveness, I have the privilege of travelling extensively the various parts of the district and acquainting myself with the views of cross-section of the people of the district regarding socio-economic transformation of Cachar.

It has been my sad experience that the small scale sector of the district has not been taken care of in a way it ought to have been. This present investigation of mine is, therefore, an earnest effort to assess the growth of the small scale sector of the district up-to-date and to find out means to effect its speedy and fruitful development. The thesis is the outcome of my personal field study and throughout the study I gave stress on the entrepreneurs' practical difficulties as encountered and reported by them.

It is really an irony that the handicaps and constraints in healthy and orderly growth of small scale sector are utmost in the district, State as well as throughout the country, whereas on the other hand, the socio-economic advantages of the sector are the greatest. Considering this background of socio-economic
utility of the small scale sector towards the society I personally developed some interest in the small scale sector and its development and expansion. This study on small scale industries of an industrially backward district like Cachar is, therefore, made with that end in view.

Though the same set of problems are generally faced by almost all the small industrial units, the small scale sector of Cachar district has some peculiar problems of its own. The peculiar geographical location of the district places it in some difficult position in regard to transport, communication, labour, power, raw materials etc. All throughout the current assessment of the functioning of the small scale sector as well as forecasting its future prospects, due weightage has been given to all these peculiar geographical and other socio-economic features of the district. The thesis is divided into three parts forming a continuous whole in that what is discussed in first part is the guideline for the actual investigation made in the second part and accordingly comments and recommendations are made in the third part.

The first part is divided into three chapters. These chapters contain the role of the Central and the State Governments in regard to the growth and development of small scale industries in the country in general and in the State of Assam in particular. Moreover, the institutional support in the development of small scale industries by the Central and State Governments are also studied here with special reference to the district of Cachar. In short, the first part contains a detailed analysis of the
governmental policy and institutional support for small industry development. The methodology adopted for the research and its socio-economic utility are described in chapter I of the first part.

The second part contains the case study of the Cachar district of Assam. Sixty small industrial units of the district of Cachar were selected at random for field study. The selection was made quite extensively, both product-wise and location-wise. The various aspects of these units are collected personally by me by filling up Questionnaire prepared for the purpose (a copy shown in Appendix-A), after adequate clarification of each and every question and interpretation of the objective of the investigation. These data were processed and tabulated under various heads and the outcome of the processing are analysed in this part of the thesis under six chapters. These six chapters are: (i) An economic profile of Cachar District; (ii) Sickness in the small scale sector of the District and Resource analysis - Material and Human; (iii) Entrepreneurial and Managerial growth in the district; (iv) Market; (v) Finance; (vi) Other infrastructural support.

The third part contains two chapters, viz., Review of existing and feasible industries and Recommendations and conclusions. The Recommendations are made on the basis of the findings of this investigation and therefore, it is expected that the recommendations will be meaningful and realistic in actual sense of the term.

The present investigation revealed some interesting and actual
state of affairs of the small scale sector of Cachar District. Lack of district level official statistics of the small scale sector of Cachar was the main hurdle in compiling this thesis. The study revealed inter alia; reasons for sickness of the existing small industrial units of the district, possible remedies, nature and magnitude of problem of material and human resources; small entrepreneurs' background - educational and practical; motivation of the entrepreneurs, growth of entrepreneurship in the district; marketing - difficulties encountered, area covered; financial structure of the small units of the district; various incentives offered by the Government - its impact on the small and tiny entrepreneurs of the district and so on.

However, the whole task of this collection and compilation will be deemed meaningful only when the socio-economic benefit are actually derived by proper utilisation of the findings in accordance with the national commitment of research and development of small industrial sector for solving the problem of educated unemployment and the involvement of the masses in the entire process of national production. I wish the small scale sector of Cachar District a bright, panoramic and glorious future.

Department of Commerce, Gurucharan College, Silchar Cachar : Assam

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