PREFACE

The role of infrastructure in initiating and accelerating the process of economic development has been well recognised both by the economists and planners. The development plans in India and other developing countries are largely concerned with the building up of infrastructure for creating the necessary preconditions of economic growth. Investment in infrastructure is also being used as the major strategy for promoting the development of backward regions. However, there have been few studies which have examined the relationship between infrastructure, economic development and regional imbalances in a comprehensive manner. The present work is a modest attempt in this direction.

Although infrastructure facilities have been increased to a considerable extent in some parts of our country, their role in economic development of Assam has been insignificant so far. To the best of our knowledge, no indepth study on the development of infrastructure facilities in this part of the country has been attempted so far. This has prompted us to take up the present study with a view to identify the constraints impeding the economic development in Assam and suggest appropriate remedial measures for overcoming the constraints. The findings of such studies can be expected to help the policy makers in devising and implementing corrective measures. Hence a study on the subject has got crucial importance.

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