Chapter 11

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Introduction

The work in hand is a modest attempt to study the role of small scale and cottage industries in Assam. As it is simply beyond the capacity of an individual researcher to cover all aspects of all the diverse and widely dispersed industries in the unorganised sector, the focus of approach in the work is diagnostic rather than estimating. With this end in view field investigation was done in 5 centres of industrial concentration selected purposively and 5 sample villages in the Kaurup (old) district. Field investigation was done at two time points in 1970-71 and 1980-81 in four centres of industrial concentration (Hafo, Sartbeheri, Sualkuchi and Ramdia) and 5 sample villages with a view to find out the entrance or exit of industries and one time point survey was conducted at one centre of industrial concentration (Kampur) in 1980-81. The work has been divided into two parts. The role of small scale and cottage industries in an economy in the context of the technological revolution, the policy of the government of India on the role of these industries in the Indian economy and the contributions of the organised as well as unorganised sectors to the economy of Assam have been dealt with in a historical perspective in Part I.
Part II has mainly been devoted, except a chapter on the Economic Profile of the Kamrup District and a small section on the concepts of small scale and cottage industries, to the case studies in the centres of industrial concentration and sample villages. The case studies have brought to light as many as 26 industries, 14 in the cottage and 12 in the small scale sectors. In this chapter the main findings of field investigations are summarised and recommendations made in the context of industrialisation of the state within the parameters of a mixed economy.

2. Main Findings of the Study

1. Industrial units and Employment

The secondary data on cottage industries show that the importance of these industries particularly in providing employment to the population of the state is gradually declining from 2.4 p.c. to 0.39 p.c. respectively in 1961 and 1971 as per Census records.* This is indicative of the reality that cottage industries which used to flourish in the past are now gradually decaying and dying. Our case studies also show the same trend. The decaying industries are bell metal, brass, gold and black smithy, Ghani, paddy husking and incense making, while pottery is dying in some

*In 1981 Census was not done due to the anti-foreigners movement and therefore data could not be presented.
centres, in some other villages it has slightly increased due to break up of joint families, the combination of the two showing a stagnating trend. The overall rate of decay of these industries during the 10 year period is 26.93 p.e. from 323 to 236 establishments; employment has also declined almost by the same percentage, i.e., 26.46 from 718 to 528 (Table 8.1).

The expanding industries in the cottage sector are handloom weaving and spinning. While expansion of silk handlooms in Sukhishri (by 38.47 p.e. from 2165 to 2998 looms and rise in employment by 41.77 p.e. from 2990 to 4239 persons) is autonomous as a whole time occupation, rise in the number of looms by 300 p.e. (from 74 to 296) in other areas is induced, i.e., due to activation of domestic looms by government, semi-government, co-operative agencies or/and private dealers under the putting out system and all these looms provide only a subsidiary source of income in part-time occupation.

Likewise establishments in the spinning group which is also a part-time occupation has also increased by 119.87 p.e. from 332 to 750 and employment has risen from 495 to 843 or by 70.30 p.e. because of putting out raw materials by the agencies and the introduction of a unit of cotton spinning in the Assam Charkha by the Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board. Thus including the newly induced industries, total establishments in the cottage group has increased by 51.48
p.e. from 1818 to 2754 as a result of which employment has risen by 40.81 p.e. from 4288 to 6038 persons during the period under review in the 4 industrial centres and 5 villages surveyed (the data compared exclude those of Rampur where one time point survey was done). The total number of cottage establishments in all the surveyed areas was 3470 in which 6871 persons were employed in 1980-81.

While secondary data on non-registered small scale industries in the state are not available, registered establishments had increased at a tremendous rate due to starting from scratch of hardly 200 units in 1980-81 to 12000 in 1980-81 (permanently registered units in 1980-81 were 3132). However, the contribution of the unorganised industries to state income of Assam throws some light on the growth of this sector; income from cottage and small scale industries (registered and non-registered) lumped together as 'small enterprises' had risen from Rs. 27.9 crores in 1960-61 to Rs. 66.1 crores in 1980-81 at current prices. This shows that the contribution of these industries had increased by 136.91 p.e. during the 20 year period although in terms of sectoral contribution to total state income its share had declined from 7.7 p.e. to 2.7 p.e. in the years under reference.

Our case studies show that the number of small scale industries had increased by 47.22 p.e. from 108 to 159 establishments and employment in them had risen by 88.50 p.e.
from 171 to 322 persons during the ten year period (excluding date on Rampur where one time point survey was done). All the 5 industrial centres and 5 villages surveyed contained 184 units providing employment to 374 persons in 1980-81.

(11) **Organisation and Localisation of Industries**

Out of 3470 cottage establishments only 0.20 p.e. (3 units) were under government, semi-government and co-operative agencies and the rest were under private management. Among the 184 small scale establishments only one (0.54 p.e.) was under a government agency and the remaining was under private management. As all the establishments are tiny no formal organisation exists for their management in the private sector; the owner being the jack of all trades manages everything from procurement of raw material to marketing of the products and from supervising labour (where hired labour exists) to maintaining (in a few cases) rough accounts while working himself (in most of the cases) as labour.

But from the point of view of risk and uncertainty bearing, the so-called owners of many industrial units are not the real organisers of their enterprise; they work with their own tools and implements under what is called the "putting out" system in which raw materials are supplied as well as marketing of the products is done by private, co-
operative or/and government, semi-government agencies as a result of which the owners of capital instruments do not partake of any benefit of the enterprise other than the contract wages. From this standpoint we have divided the enterprises into two, viz., 'independent' and 'dependent'. According to this division out of 3470 cottage establishments 2079 or 59.91 p.c. are dependent enterprises under the putting out system while 40.09 of the cottage and small per cent of the small scale industries are independent in which the owners actually bear the business risk. This aspect brings home the point that cottage industry is not, as is commonly held by many of its advocates, an avenue of 'self-employment' because most of them are dependent enterprises under the putting out system.

As regards localisation, all the cottage industries are traditional skill based. But in small scale industries no traditional skill is found either among the entrepreneurs or the workers. While the entrepreneurs are 'imitators' without any past experience in the line, the workers acquire their skill in the job. Unlike the generally held view, while all the cottage industries are based neither on locally available raw materials nor on local markets, many of the small scale industries are local raw material as well as local market oriented. But it is also evident that except in the personal service oriented industries like tailoring, repairing service units etc, transport of either raw
Materials or finished products does not pose a hindrance to their localisation. In this context, almost all the cottage and small scale industries except brick kilns may be considered as footloose or mobile.

(iii) Capital Structure

Capital structure in both cottage and small scale industries varies according to their size; for example, the more the number of looms in a workshop, the more is the investment in fixed and working capital. In small scale industries also investment is dependent on installed capacity. In the cottage industries found during the second time point survey fixed capital investment in tools and implements varies from Rs. 2 in an Eri spinning Takli to Rs. 7000 in a sample silk workshop with 7 flyshuttle looms fitted with dobby. In small scale enterprises fixed capital ranges from Rs. 700 in a radio servicing unit to Rs. 55000 in a saw mill. Fixed capital investment in plant and machinery shows that capital investment in small scale industries in mofussil areas fall far short of the ceiling investment of Rs. 2 lakhs fixed for the 'tiny' industries. In this context as well as in the context of the fact that 90 p.c. of the small scale industries in India are 'tiny' there was hardly any reason to revise upward in 1985 the ceiling limit of investment in plant and machinery from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs for defining small scale industries.
Fixed capital investment being given, working capital investment plays a crucial role in employment creation and income generation. But the dependent cottage enterprises constituting 59.91 p.c. of the total have no working capital of their own and therefore employment and income in these industries are entirely dependent the raw material supplying agencies' capacity and willingness to put out raw materials. Working capital investment in the independent cottage enterprises varies from Rs. 150 in a single loom Eri-spinning-cum-weaving unit with part-time family labour to Rs. 58500 in a 7-loom silk factory.

As regards small scale industries, most of them found in the field survey are individual customers' demand oriented and as such their working capital investment is negligible as a result of which their installed capacity remains unutilised; but provision of working capital can make them market oriented which would help in turn utilising their installed capacity. Among the market oriented industries like bakery, oil expeller, brick kiln etc. working capital investment varies from Rs. 1000 in a bakery to Rs. 32000 in brick kiln.

(iv) Labour Characteristics

Labour, both family and hired workers, engaged in the unorganised industries is not subject to any short of industrial discipline either in attending one's own work or
working for a certain period. In the cottage industries family as well as hired workers are found working side by side. In the silk industry in Sualkuchi the percentage of hired workers increased from 32.54 to 44.35 during the 1970-71 to 1980-81 period while cotton and Eri looms in other areas have cent per cent family labour. But 39.91 p.c. of the cottage enterprises being dependent under the putting out system, the family workers of these establishments are also wage workers like hired labour in the factories. Therefore wage labour in cottage industries appears in two forms, some work at home with their own tools and implements under the raw material supplying intermediaries on contract piece rates of wages and others work in the factories either on piece rate system or other form of (daily/monthly) wages. In this context wage workers in our case studies constitute about 70 p.c. (4600) of the total (6900) cottage artisans. This aspect leads us to conclude that cottage industry is not "free from the element of wage slavery" as held by many of its advocates.

In small scale industries too, both family and hired workers are found working side by side. Here the proportion of hired workers is 68.6, p.c. being own account workers including the persons on management.

As regards labour conditions, hired workers both in the cottage and small scale industries belong to the unprotected labour sector. All the workshops in the
unorganised sector are immune from any type of factory regulation; there is no uniformity in the rates of wages, either in the piece or daily system, the workers are not entitled to any other benefit like D.A. or bonus enjoyed by their counterparts in the organised sector, they also work longer hours without overtime benefit. As the workers are freely accessible to job, so they are subject to straight way dismissal and scattering. These aspects show that 'wage slavery' in cottage and small scale industries is worse than in the organised industries.

As has already been referred to, industrial skill of the workers in both small scale and cottage industries is acquired by on-the-job training rather than by any formal channel of technical education. This aspect indicates that traditional skills of the cottage artisans can easily be upgraded and converted to high level technical skill required for manning modern industries. This aspect is also a pointer to the fact that industrial development of backward areas is not constrained by availability of technical skill which can be built up after installation of plants and machineries, through a programme of a few weeks' on-the-job training with the help of some 'worker trainers'.

(v) Income Features

Income generated by the cottage and small scale industries varies between a very wide range from establishment
to establishment and as per employment features, viz., part-time and whole-time nature of the occupation. While annual average income of the part-time workers varies from Rs. 50 in Ghani (human labour driven) to Rs. 740 in Eri looms, monthly average income of whole-time workers ranges between Rs. 150 in pottery and Rs. 680 in blacksmithy. While entrepreneurial income per establishment is synonymous with per worker income in most of the part-time occupations, there is a difference between entrepreneurial income and per worker income in some of the whole-time occupations because of the existence of hired workers. Thus while monthly average entrepreneurial income in a silk factory is Rs. 780, hired worker's monthly average income is Rs. 780. Skewness in income distribution among the cottage entrepreneurs in the same product line is also evident. In Suzukshi while small silk factory owners forming 74 p.e. of the total in our sample of 100 factories earn per annum Rs. 2144 as entrepreneurial income exclusive of imputed income for family labour, the big factory owners constituting 6 p.e. of the total earn Rs. 52564 (the rest 20 p.e. are medium and their per unit per annum average entrepreneurial income is Rs. 22911) (Table 8.4). This skewness of income distribution among the entrepreneurs themselves as well as among the entrepreneurs and workers indicates, contrary to the commonly held view, that cottage industries by themselves do not ensure an egalitarian pattern of income distribution.
Likewise, the range of monthly income distribution in the small scale industries is also very wide, it varies between Rs. 330 in radio servicing units and Rs. 3570 in rice huller establishments with 28 p.c. of the enterprises earning Rs. 1000 or more per month while monthly income of the hired workers varies between Rs. 50 with free food and lodge in bicycle repairing and Rs. 350 in seasonal brick kiln. In the small scale industries also the trend of skewness in income distribution is evident.

(vi) Problems of Industries

The industries under case study are facing different problems of varying intensity. Some of the traditional industries have faced stiff competition from the modern sector due to which even the existing capacities are not fully utilized. The production processes involving drudgery without adequate return for the long hours of work lead to the flight of artisans from this sector and prevent the new generations from seeking their livelihood in these industries. Dearth of working capital combined with lack of marketing channels for the products compels the cottage artisans to work under the raw material supplying intermediaries or sell their products below normal price to trader middlemen who siphone off the value added. As against the volume of financial requirements for working capital, the quantum of institutional finance is limited; 'bad experience' gained by
advancing a few loans by the commercial banks has been a
discouraging factor for the bank officials to finance the
small man behind the unorganised industries. But inspite of
the financial constraints, particularly for working capital,
most of the modern small scale industries are economically
viable.

(vii) Role of Co-operative and other Institutions

Several industrial co-operative societies were
found dormant either due to lack of marketing channel for
their products, dearth of working capital or mismanagement
or due to the combination of all the factors. A few active
co-operative societies are putting out relatively small
quantity of raw materials among the cottage artisans and
providing some marketing channels to their products. Among
the government and semi-government institutions the Assam
Khadi and Village Industries Board has provided employment
to over 1600 persons in the surveyed areas in weaving and
spinning. But income generated by these activities among
the artisans fall far short of the requirements for elevating
the workers above the poverty line.

3. Recommendations

While analysing different facets of the industries
under study suggestions and recommendations have already
been made at appropriate places in the text with a view to
removing the bottlenecks and improving the conditions of each industry. In this section we venture to suggest some general measures considered important in the light of the findings and more important in the context of industrial development of the state. The primary as well as secondary data collected show that while most of the traditional cottage industries are decaying and dying, economically viable modern small scale industries are percolating to the moffusil areas. But their growth rate considered against the rates of decay of traditional industries on the one side and rise of population in the state on the other, is not encouraging.

Some of the traditional industries like the domestic handloom can, no doubt, be activated as has been done by the government or semi-government agencies, but the data show that the income generated among the artisans is not sufficient even for two square meals a day for the employees themselves while the production processes are also not attractive to the young generation for the drudgery and fatigue involved. Therefore, the best way out to revive these industries seems to be the upgradation of the artisans' skills to modern technique of production with a view to raising labour productivity and earnings and/or to modern product lines keeping in view the changed habits, tastes and fashions of the modern consumers. The apprehension that modernisation may displace traditional artisans is, we think, a misconceived notion. A large number of traditional artisans
have already been displaced and those who are sticking to, are doing so with a precarious living in the absence of a better alternative. Therefore, the main thrust of rural industrialisation programme should be the provision not for employment for its own sake, but for gainful employment which generates an income sufficient for a decent living and at the same time, leaves a surplus essential for capital formation.

Modernisation of technique of production as well as upgrading of skills of the traditional artisans can be done at the same overhead cost incurred at present for reviving the traditional industries; for example, the services of the handloom officers and field demonstrators can easily be reoriented for introducing semi-automatic pick-up looms, Chittaranjan or/and power looms to weave modern cloths by the handloom artisans through a programme of the latter's on-the-job training. No doubt, introduction of such relatively modern technology is pre-conditioned by the financial position of the artisans to acquire the equipments as well as the raw materials which they certainly cannot afford. Marketing of the products may also pose a problem. To obviate the financial problems the commercial banks may be directed to finance such investments on liberal terms like hire-purchase schemes. Marketing co-operative societies with patronage of the government and co-operative banks may be formed for providing marketing facilities. Infrastructural facilities like processing houses may be provided by the public sector in
some selected centres. The focus of attention in such modernisation programmes should be on what is called 'common workshop' approach in a 'cluster' of villages for whole time occupation with specialisation and division of labour.

Most of the small scale industries found in our case studies are customers' demand oriented. But there is vast scope for developing resource based and non-resource based market oriented large and small scale industries in the state. Reference has already been made in Chapter 3 that the National Council of Applied Economic Research had, in its Techno-Economic Survey report, recommended in 1959-60 the setting up of 37 large scale industries consisting of 5 agro-based, 9 forest-based, 15 mineral-based and 8 non-resource-based metallic industries. Among the recommended industries mention may be made of cement plants, paper, pulp and newsprint industries, hard board, insulated board and particle board industries, integrated power and chemical plants, coal carbonisation plants, calcium carbide plants, sulphuric acid and caustic soda plants, re-rolling and wire drawing and cast iron pipe mills, electric motor and small diesel engine production units besides the more common jute, sugar, sawing, plywood and timber treatment plants and fruit preservation and canning units many of which can be started in the small scale sector.1

The Industrial Potential Survey report by the Industrial Development Bank of India and others had recommended in 1972 the setting up of an Electric Arc Furnace for re-rolling 6000/7000 tonnes of scrap iron annually available in the state, engineering units for manufacturing power tillers and other agricultural machineries and establishment of 2 Textile Processing Houses for running 2500 power looms in the decentralised sector.

The Small Industries Service Institutes have brought to light the potentialities and prospects of many modern small scale industries based on locally available raw materials like jute and other agricultural products, hides and skins, fruits, wood and timber; market oriented industries like soap, bakery, edible oil, caffeine, chalk pencils, lead pencils, fountain pens, ink, hair oils, hosiery and ready-made garment manufacturing units, non-ferrous metal industries, cast iron foundries, plantation machinery manufacturing industries, steel-trunk and bucket factories, aluminium utensils, builders' hardwares, plastic moulded goods manufacturing units; in the servicing group, industries like truck and bus body building, tyre retreading units, general engineering, automobile and electronic engineering repairing workshops etc. may be set up in the semi-urban and mofussil

2. IDBI, Industrial Potential Survey, Assam, 1972, pp. 20-24
In the Kamrup (old) district itself 3 jute twine units one each at Barpeta, Howli and Sarbhog may be set up for processing nearly one lakh bales (one bale = 180 Kg) of locally available jute (the state produced 9.12 lakh bales of jute in 1980-81). We think 3 mini jute mills one each at Barpeta, Sarbhog and Bajali may be set up. The Barpeta and Nalbari sub-divisions (now districts) produce some 6000 million arecanuts which can be processed into scented and canned Superis in 3 processing units with modern drying and dyeing facilities one each at Sarbhog, Bajali and Nalbari. Such units may also be set up at Baibata Chareli and Bibo. There is also scope for setting up mini composite coconut oil-coir producing units at Nalbari and Bajali (coconut production in the state was 5.2 million units in 1980-81).

But inspite of the vast potentialsities of large scale and small scale industries Assam remains till date an industrially backward state. She contains only 1564 units...
(1.7 p.c.) of the 88077 registered factories in India with 1,26,802 workers (1.7 p.c.) out of 72,48,109 industrial workers in the country (1978-79). The number of permanently registered small scale industries was only 3132 or 0.7 p.c. of the country's 427424 units in 1980-81. Two most important retarding factors in the industrial development of the state are said to be (by government authorities) the (1) lack of entrepreneurship and (2) poor infrastructural facilities.

Development of basic infrastructures like national high ways, railways, air ways, water ways and power grids and communication systems is the sole responsibility of the Central and State governments and they should come forward while admitting the drawbacks, with concrete project programmes to remove the bottlenecks.

Dearth of private entrepreneurship also should not stand in the way of industrial development of any region or country. In Italy the government undertakes the responsibility of industrial development of backward Southern Italy known as the Messogiorno region through several public sector institutions which act as catalysts of industrial projects. The absence of private entrepreneurship is accepted there as a "sign of insufficiency not of private enterprise itself, but of public intervention of the traditional type." In

5. Saraceno, Pasquale, Economic Development of Southern Italy, article in Economic Weekly, Special Number, July 1962, pp. 1133-38
Japan most of the industries of basic importance thriving today owe their origin to government guidance and initiative.\(^6\)

In the above context the government of Assam should take to itself the responsibility of undertaking new industrial projects and if required a statutory body like Industrial Development Corporation of Assam may be promoted by the state government with equity participation by the financial institutions and the public for investment in different industrial projects. The local bodies like the Panchayats, Municipal Boards and panchayat level Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies may be entrusted with responsibility of starting resource and demand based small scale industries and helping modernisation of traditional industries as done in China.\(^7\)

The Central Government while diverting to or starting central sector industries in Assam (she contains only 7 out of 1177 central government industries or only 0.6 p.c. of them) should enact legislations in the light of the Distribution of Industries Act, 1945 and Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 of the United Kingdom through which she controls the localisation of industries and diverts and disperses them to

\(^6\) Lal, Cheman, Cottage Industries and Agriculture in Japan, New Book Company, Bombay, 1949, p. 24

\(^7\) Stanford Research Institute, Notes on Small Industry and Handicraft Development in Mainland China, Misc. Paper No. 2, 1938, pp. 27-29
less developed and 'suburban' areas. Even the offices of the industrial companies in our country need dispersal and shifting to the areas of their operation in the context of 'collection' and 'distribution' of income tax (as most of the head offices of the two companies operating in Assam are located in Calcutta, Assam loses the share of their corporate income tax major portion of which is distributed on the basis of 'collection'). For this purpose an authority may be set up in the light of Location of Office Bureau (established in 1963) of the U.K., which controls location of offices and diverts them to less congested suburban areas through a system of Office Development Certificates.8* 

At the same time while encouraging through tax concessions and subsidies outside private investors to establish branches and subsidiaries of old industries and to

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* In our country in spite of the measures for industrial dispersal, "the tendency towards locational concentration appears to have continued and the share of major industrial centres of Greater Bombay, Calcutta (including Howrah), Madras, Delhi, Ahmednabad and Bangalore in manufacturing employment rose from 9.6 p.c. in 1951 to 12.9 p.c. in 1971". Ref. Report on Industrial Dispersal, National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas, Planning Commission, 1980, pp. 3-4. The Committee had also observed that among the variety of factors underlying the actual pattern of industrial location, "political pressures also play an important role and the licensing system is used in favour of sub-optimal patterns of location", Ibid., p. 4, Para 2.19
start new ones, measures should be taken for the emergence and growth of local entrepreneurship. At present there is a gap, indeed a very big information gap between the potential entrepreneur and the enterprise; the would-be entrepreneur is not aware of the products having market, sources and kinds of raw materials needed, the type and availability of machinery required, sources of finance etc. Such information gaps may be bridged by a system of Social Industrial Education through a network of publications, libraries, motion pictures, radio, television, public lectures etc. which in turn is likely to help emerging an entrepreneurial class as well as orienting the values and attitudes of the general public towards industrial discipline, scientific outlook and technological knowledge. Vocationalisation of the educational system as in Japan where fourteen year old boys are being taught to make bicycles, watches and blue prints of machinery will also help creating a social milieu congenial for industrial development of the State.

4. Conclusions

As stated earlier, the present study is a modest attempt to focus attention on the functioning and problems of small scale and cottage industries. The study was undertaken with 3 broad sets of objectives, viz., evaluation of the

9. Lal, Chaman, op. cit., p. 76
operative conditions of the industries, assessment of their specific problems and suggestions for their improvement. The analysis of data (at appropriate places) collected from field study has given adequate information on the objectives. As the field is wide and diverse, even without a sampling frame, we had to take the option of selecting purposively 5 centres of industrial concentration well known for the specific industries and 5 sample villages with the expectation that the industries that might come up would represent those of the district as well as of the state. Compared with 72 industries found and evaluated in 1954-55 by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics* with all the paraphernalia under its command, 26 industries evaluated by an individual researcher seem to be not a mean number. We are also convinced that the number of samples, 298 on 2451 cottage establishments (12.15 p.c. sample) exclusive of the units under the Khadi Production and Weavers Extension Centres, 111 on 184 small scale units (60.52 p.c. sample) and 50 co-operative, government and semi-government institutions interviewed (altogether 429) during the second survey in 1980-81 are sufficient to represent the particular industry in the state except in some cases where the units were found a few like 2 saw mills, one brick kiln and one oil expeller.

The findings of field investigation of small scale and cottage industries have brought to light certain specific features and problems which have been highlighted at appropriate places. It is found that although there are many independent cottage enterprises, a large proportion (59.01) of them is dependent. These dependent units are to rely on intermediaries for supply of raw materials and marketing their products while each of them possessing capital equipments. The independent enterprises also suffer from dearth of working capital and marketing channels for their products. While some of the cottage industries use hired workers (in the silk industry at Surkuchi hired workers constitute 44.35 p.c. of the total), family workers constitute 59.11 p.c. (4062) of the total 6871 workers in 3470 cottage establishments in 1980-81. But the family workers of the dependent units are also wage earners under the putting out system. These workers along with the hired workers in the factories constitute nearly 70 p.c. of the 6871 workers in the cottage establishments, in other words, 70 p.c. of the cottage workers are wage earners in one form or another as against 68 p.c. wage workers in small scale industries. It is also seen that income varies from enterprise to enterprise as well as according to the nature of employment, i.e., full time and part-time occupation. Amongst the problems, the most prominent are the lack of working capital, absence of a proper marketing channel for the products and outdated technique of production. On the basis of these findings certain recommendations have been made in Chapter 9
to improve the present position.

As has been stated earlier in the text, there are certain limitations in the study, such as data on raw materials consumed, income earned, mandays spent in the occupation etc. supplied by the persons interviewed who do not maintain proper records. Utmost care was taken to gauge the proper data while filling up the schedules. The frame of the questionnaire has also limited the scope of investigation. Inspite of such limitations the researcher is convinced that the work contains the required materials as well as some side lights as may be expected within all the constraints an individual researcher is subject to by the very nature of the topic.