CHAPTER X

CONCLUSION

In industrial scenario of Bankura district as presented in the preceding chapters gives a dismal picture. The large scale industries are conspicuous by their absence. Few medium scale industries like Kangsabati Spinning Mill, Nut-bolt factory in Chatna, Iron forging in Ratanpur, Phosphate factory in Ramsagar are under construction. This leaves the district with cottage and small scale industries. In 1991, 7655 cottage and small industries were registered with the District Industry Centre. 13650 handloom units registered with the District Handloom Board. But again this is very little when compared with the State of West Bengal. In 1990 the number of SIDO and non-SIDO units registered in West Bengal were 3,35,688, whereas Bankura district registered 10,840 unit. The district only had 3.22% of the total small scale industries of West Bengal. In the same year, 24-Parganas, Howrah, Calcutta and Burdwan registered, 17.22%, 11.22%, 13.85% and 8.43% respectively. Bankura is thus lagging far behind the other states of West Bengal.

In the district maximum number of workers are engaged in the primary sector part in agro-based units. This itself is an indication of underdevelopment and backwardness of the economy. From the distribution of units it is clear that maximum number of units are agro-based and forest-based units.
The percentage share of Bankura district in agro-processing units to state's total, is given in Table 9, which reveals the grim industrial situation of the district. Even the affluent areas are mostly devoid of any industrial growth.

Table 9
Percentage share of Bankura District in Agro-processing units (1988)

(% of state total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Food Product</th>
<th>Tobacco</th>
<th>Cotton Product</th>
<th>Wood Product</th>
<th>Paper products &amp; printing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bankura</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>4.29</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Industrial directory, Directorate of W.B.

There are a large number of unregistered small industrial enterprises, cottage and traditional units contributing significantly in the basic framework of industrial activity. But these are all irregular, seasonal and unorganised type. To strengthen the industrial base of the district, development of the existing units is essential.

The district enjoys incentives and facilities like grant, concessional finance etc. for setting up new units, and expansion of existing one. The resource endowment
of the district (as discussed in Chapter III) and its proximity to the Asansol, Durgapur industrial belt is sufficient for enormous possibilities of various engineering units. But considering the unemployment situation there is very little scope to absorb the unskilled persons in the larger projects, except in the constructing stage. On an average about Rs. 4 lakh has to be invested in the large and medium industries for employment of one person. Thus to absorb 50% of the rural labour force Rs. 400 lakhs must be invested. The amount is too big to be invested either by Government or by institute of finance.

Hence, alternatively the planners should think of cottage and small scale industrial units, where for employment of one person about Rs. 2000 is only required to be invested. Therefore, the need of Rs. 20 crores only may be mobilised both by the government and by the financial institute for this district in the coming years, if a concerted effort is taken in a planned manner.

The small scale industry has an universal appeal not only because of its capacity to create low capital intensive projects, but (1) decentralized development of small scale industries tend to promote, special development which influence economic prosperity of the immediate neighbouring areas. (2) small units offer better working and living environment due to lower energy consumption, thereby destroying the ecological equilibrium to a minimum extent.
(3) Harmonious working relation and better opportunity for self-expression through innovation.

The possible industries that can be set up has been discussed in detail in Chapter IX. The industrial growth of a region depends to a great extent on the harmonious growth of the regions infrastructural facilities, market size and raw material supply.

Raw material supply and movement of manufactured goods depend on the existing road and railway network. As described earlier the transport network is very poor. The total area covered by metalled and non-metalled roads is only 6948.48 km. The Railway covers an area of 144 km. 72.8% of the villages are still not connected with metalled road. There is no direct link with the nearby steel towns, and Calcutta. Road-cum-rail bridge over Damodar at Mejhia will make the access of the Asansol-Durgapur-Raniganj belt easier. Construction of bridges over the Dwarekeswar, Sali, Kangsabati, Joyponda at suitable points will improve the intra-sectoral linkages. Construction of surface roads with proper network should be optimised balancing the needs of the growing transport pattern. A serious consideration is necessary for development of the railway mileage in the district.

1) A rail-cum-road bridge at Mejhia,
2) Railway link from Mejhia to Bankura,
3) Railway link from Durgapur, Bankura, Jamshedpur,
4) Upgradation of Bankura Damodar Railway to broad guage with link to Eastern Railway, and
5) Reduction of Railway link from Bankura to Purulia by upgrading the narrow guage line of Purulia-Kotsila will help in the industrial growth of the region.

Power is one of the essential input for economic development of a region. The per capita consumption of energy is very low. Only 46.44% of the total mouzas are electrified. Necessary steps must be taken to augment the capacity of power generation in Bankura. This can help in the installation of new industrial units. Not all units require power in the district, but adequate and regular supply should be made available to those who need it. Total coverage will involve large investment. Bio-gas plants may serve the purpose of an alternative source of energy supply. 268 plants were installed in 1988. The potential of Bio-gas plants is high in the district. With the estimated cattle population of 25.50 lakh in 1991, capable of supplying 8 Cu Ft of gas per family per day, satisfying the fuel requirement for cooking and lighting of all household. This will help them to work in the evening also which will increase the productivity of the household units.
The agriculture and household sector should be induced to adopt modern techniques. But it should be chosen to take account of the present vast underutilisation of labour and the rapid growth of labour force. It should be employment intensive, capital saving, but resulting in higher productivity. Therefore, reviving the old technology, inventing new ones and improving the existing technology should be taken up in planned manner for industrialization. The fishing hook project at Ghugoria with technical expertise and help from C.M.E.R.I (Durgapur). The pottery unit at Panchmura with the help of C.G.C.R.I. are success stories of new improved technology. Similar ventures on leather technology and brass-metal can alter the socio-economic scenario to a great extent.

Training institutes can help in imparting the knowhow to the entrepreneurs and craftsmen. The financial institute should be well organised so that the benefits of credit facilities reach the rural poor.

There is realistically speaking little hope for any large scale industrialisation in the rural areas. The case for promoting small scale industrial enterprises in urban area is strong. Small enterprises in sufficient numbers can provide a trigger action for the industrial growth of Bankura district. Two types of policies can be
used to support the small scale enterprises:

(1) Protection through reservation and,
(2) It must be exposed to competition which will make
the S.S.I. units strong enough to face the challenge posed
by large scale industries.

An apex institution must be set up, which should con-
centrate more on integrating the process of development,
clearing the constraints of entrepreneurial augmentation,
promoting industrial culture in industrial centres and
hinterland. This calls for extensive research studies and
generation of data which is scarce at present. However
painful the process, the planners cannot afford to ignore
it, they should assume the responsibility of transforming
the current stagnation into a dynamic process to bring a
radical reconstruction of the district's economy.