Jalpaiguri District lying in Jalpaiguri Division in the State of West Bengal is identified as an under-developed district in North Bengal inspite of its immense potential for development and growth which remained unutilised and unexploited over the decades. If these resources were properly utilised it would have given the sagging economy of the district, a boost for the benefit of the people. My study entitled as "Industrial Potential of Jalpaiguri District" aims at tracing the resources of these potentialities and to show how these potentialities could be converted into process of development for the economic growth of the district. The study has been classified into eight chapters dealing with (1) general information and the background of the district, (ii) development of urban growth centres (iii) the availability of indigenous raw materials for the industry(iv) small scale and cottage industries (v) forest based industry (vi) Tea Industry in the district (vii) infra-structural facilities with a particular stress on the supply of power and (viii) industrial growth potential.

In dealing with the general information and the background of the district my study reveals its geographical position, topography, the climate and rainfall together with the indulgence of the people in primary, secondary and tertiary activities.

Next, elaborate discussion has been made to trace the different stages of development of urban growth centres and the formation and growth of new urban centres with the influx
of immigrant population from the neighbouring district and States due to vast unutilised cultivable lands, development in Railway communication system and the establishment of tea estates.

Then the study was carried on in the arena of the availability of indigenous raw materials, agricultural, mineral and forest based and to show how the raw material could be utilised to set up different types of small and medium scale industry within the close proximity of such materials and their economics being worked out and discussed in detail.

Then the investigation was made to trace the growth of small scale and cottage industries of the district and their present financial constraints were thoroughly discussed and measures suggested for their expansion and setting up of new units by the Government as well as under self employment scheme.

Forest is the real wealth of the district covering an area of 1790 sq. k.m. which works out to be 28.75% in relation to the total geographical area of the district. The study deals with the vast and varied forest materials and their exploitation in setting up many a small and medium size industry. The forests in Jalpaiguri district have a tremendous influence upon the economy of the district in maintaining the ecological balance, the growth of industries based on forest products, in creating employment potential, in developing the wild life sanctuaries and tourism and above all maintaining
the development and sustained growth of the most organised industry 'tea' by supplying timber for tea chests and wood-fuel for the workers employed in the industry. The aforesaid aspects of the forest have been elaborately dealt with.

The study then passes on to the field of tea industry, dealing exclusively with the various aspects of it. It is an acknowledged fact that this industry plays a predominant role in the economy of the district. It produces 77% of the total tea production in West Bengal, 29% of the total North-East India and 18% in relation to all India production having employed 1.61 lakhs of workers and twice the number is indirectly dependent upon this industry. The study highlights the problems of this pivotal industry and suggests measures for their amelioration. It has also made an in-depth study about the productivity of labour and the improved method of cultivation for the growth of production. Constructive suggestions have been made as to how the labour productivity could be raised and further employment potential created and the production enhanced to a level to maintain its share in achieving the production target for India as envisaged in 7th Five Year Plan and by the turn of the century.

The last two chapters of the study are devoted to infrastructural facilities with a particular stress on the generation of power and its smooth supply and the industrial growth potential for the acceleration of its economy.