Statement I

Regarding the discovery of the new facts and
the original work, etc.

The present work was undertaken to study trade relations carried out in Western India with a special reference to Gujarat from 3rd Century B.C. to 7th Century A.D. The analysis and interpretation of source material revealed some unknown facts.

(i) This work was undertaken mainly to fill in the lacuna of the detailed information of the study and to deal it in broader perspective. This subject has been dealt by various scholars in parts. Being situated on the Western Litoral, it was easier for the foreign traders to approach directly causing trade to flourish and bring about prosperity thus highlighting the importance of the region.

(ii) The inscriptions of this period gives valuable account of the corporate organisation of traders. It has helped in tracing the guild organisation. A comparative study of the administrative limits of other countries is carried out, so as to know the common factors and to understand the trade communication in a better perspective. This will help us to know about the emergence of new centres and the routes formed.
The merchants travelling distant areas left traces in the form of antiquities. These antiquities, once studied, will give an in-depth knowledge about the exports and imports of an area. The large number of antiquities found from Gujarat, and other parts of Western India increases the importance of this region as an area of brisk trading activity.

The excavation reports bring out the importance of an area as a centre of trade. With the help of archaeological and literary sources, the important trading sites were presented on the maps.

Statement II

Sources of Information

The sources are vast and varied in nature. The bulk of the source material in this work is mainly drawn from the archaeological and literary sources. Reports from the Archaeological Survey of India, excavation reports and research paper on inscriptions were studied thoroughly. In addition to archaeological evidences, Indian and foreign literary sources, the use of geographical, geological and other information are also used
for understanding the various facets of the subject under review. Other sources include secular and religious literatures of Hindu, Jain and Buddhist works of ancient times. The study of only literary sources raise some doubts about the chronological sequence whereas the archaeological evidences by themselves were insufficient. Hence, more intensive and extensive research can be carried out, largely by corroborating the archaeological sources with the literary sources.

The ancient literature throws interesting light on political, social and economic factors of the region. It traces out the commercial knowledge of the people of those days. Whereas the archaeological sources includes inscriptions, coins, seals, ceramics, and other remains of materials of art and culture, besides architectural findings. It has the durability which, under certain favourable conditions, can be preserved remarkably well. The work of the early scholars are also taken into consideration.

The material and data collected from the direct sources and the information gathered from the previous scholars were studied with care and their results summarised in this report.