PREFACE

The present research study was undertaken with a view to analyse, the development of sugar industry in Maharashtra, on a regional basis. Although, the State of Maharashtra, is considered as a leading state in the Indian Union, in the production sugar output; even then, it was thought that, its performance at the regional (zonal) level must be assessed. Secondly, the Sugar Cooperatives in Maharashtra, especially, in the South and Central zones, have acted as catalytic agents in the process of rural development, since 1950's when Prof. D.R. Gadgil and Mr. Vikhe-Patil, made pioneering efforts to initiate sugar co-operatives in Maharashtra. How far have these benefits of sugar co-operatives, been percolated to under-developed regions of the state, viz. Marathwada and Vidarbha? To what extent have these sugar cooperatives been shifted to these under-developed regions? What about the performance of these sugar cooperatives on a regional basis? All these important issues have been discussed in this study.

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SANGEETA R. KURULKAR