Concluding observations

The following sharp pointed conclusions may be drawn at the end of this study. Development by its nature tends to concentrate and cluster in areas where the needed infrastructure has already evolved. It does not disperse in to underdeveloped areas on its own. Deliberate efforts have to be made to develop underdeveloped areas like Garhwal. Backwardness may be reduced by eradicating its symptoms, causes or characteristics as outlined in the introduction of this thesis. Industrial development is an effective tool for bringing about economic development. It assumes a greater significance in the perspective of Garhwal where the primary sector is heavily overburdened, unprofitable, and outmigration is rampant due to many reasons outlined in chapter 4. While the Government has accepted the validity of developing industries in the region, the outlay for this head has been lacking. Generally fluctuating between 3 and 4 percent. There is a need to raise the outlay for industries in view of its importance. The traditional industries of this area such as wool based occupations and handicrafts, are undergoing a bad phase and need uplifting. Weavers, knitters, spinners, wood carvers and other craftsmen do not enjoy a good living standard at exist on the bare minimum despite encouragement from the Government. They have been reduced to the status of a wage earner. Some hope in this perspective of industrial development of the region is gained by the promotion of electronics and tourism. While electronic industry is still very much limited, the scope for tourism is immense and it has been subjected to intensive exploration and promotion. A large number of native earn their
yearly income out of catering to tourist needs. Industry in Garhwal is also wrought by problems of choice of industry, lack of entrepreneurship development and training, unsuitability of financial assistance schemes, lack of raw material, and difficulties in marketing of finished products. There is an urgent need to modify the criteria for advancing assistance to industry in Garhwal and to create more flexibility in administration. This may be achieved by decentralizing powers at lower levels and sensitizing the planners towards area specific problems. The Garhwal region still lags behind other areas of U.P. as well as the State average with regard to many indicators. For example, the per capita value of industrial production in Garhwal is far below the state average. For Pauri, this figure is merely 33.17 Rupees, for Tehri, this figure is 96 Rupees. While for Dehradun the figure is 1248 rupees against a State average of 948.49 Rupees. The corresponding figures for Uttar Kashi and Chamoli are nonexistent. The number of industrial workers per lakh of population in Dehradun is 1130. While for Pauri and Tehri, this figure is 39 and 41 respectively against a State average of 559.1 Promotion of industry in Garhwal, requires a number of changes at the policy level. The status of traditional industry needs uplifting. Special schemes for the growing of raw material for such industry at a private level should be launched. Side by side, the centralized procedure for the distribution of raw material for these industries needs to be decentralized significantly. It is necessary to provide

1. Government of Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal Vikas Athveen Panchavarsheey Yojana,
incentives for the growing of Khair, craft related wood, Ringal, Buransh etc. Alternately, they should be given access to forests in order to collect such raw material. The demand for the withdrawal of Government intervention from wool based trade as well as handicrafts has been voiced increasingly during the research. Such a move needs careful deliberation. The Government has built up a network of centers over the past forty years or so. Its abrupt withdrawal from this area may lead to the disintegration of such crafts. Perhaps a step by step withdrawal will be more adequate. Or the task of managing such crafts could be entrusted to a handicraft council governed by the locals.

Tourism has shown encouraging trends over the past years. Tourism is providing a living to thousands in Garhwal. However, it has come under fire from the environmental lobby as well as a section of people who believe that the culture of this region is degenerating on account of tourism. It has to be understood that tourism provides the most vibrant opportunity for economic development in this money starved economy. It is necessary to take steps to plan and regulate tourism in a way that both interests are suitably accommodated. The policy of financial incentive to industry too needs reform. The criteria and eligibility conditions for obtaining such assistance are formulated at the national or the State level. Hence they are not sensitive enough to the needs of this area. These criteria need relaxation in order to benefit the locals. Efforts must be made that maximum number of natives get the benefit of such incentives. The real purpose of encouraging industry in Garhwal is to check emigration while developing the economy and create
employment. Stress should be laid on strengthening private initiative. There is also a need to relax the regulations of environmental nature on horticulture based units. Since all the background effort for industrial development of this area will be wasted if the products manufactured by it are not sold on account of competition from outside, such products needs a little protection. This may be achieved by either raising the sales tax on some commodities coming from outside the region, or by devising a mechanism to promote these products in the plains thereby broadening the market. There is a greater scope of progress in the service and repair based industry than actual manufacturing. The D.I.C. has been encouraging repair workshops of all sorts. There is also a large scope for encouraging private transportation to cater to tourism as well as local needs. It is necessary to promote such activity too. Therefore, it is necessary to state that a more flexible policy sensitive to local circumstances is desirable.