P R E F A C E

The subject dealt with in the present study is currently getting increasing importance in the literature of developmental economics during the last few years. In India, although the subject is in the preliminary stage, recently some thoughtful empirical analyses have been made in this field. But the published literature is somewhat scattered and confused and scarcely provides any clear and adequate understanding of the problem of agricultural unemployment and underemployment. In the past few thoughtful attempts have been made to scrutinise the published matter on the subject and to put it in a systematic and proper perspective which may be helpful to get an insight of the problem for evolving the strategy and concepts relevant to India and especially at the State or regional level.

In the present study, firstly, the problem has been discussed at the national level with reference to less-developed countries, then the State-level enquiry of the problem was made and finally the empirical and factual investigation of the agricultural unemployment and underemployment problem at the regional level was done. Attempt has been made also to
analyse critically and to synthesise comprehensively the entire theoretical and empirical literature on the subject and the significant contribution has been exposed with appraisal. The present work has been divided into two parts: The first part, having six chapters, deals with the problem of unemployment and underemployment; its nature and extent and the measures to create sufficient employment opportunities in underdeveloped countries with special reference to India. In this part the problem is also discussed historically under the current context of planning in India. This part of the study essentially aims at to know the development of the literature in historical perspective so as to evolve a basis for regional and State level study. This will sufficiently assist in gaining the knowledge of existing thoughts on the subject for evolving and assessing the relevant approach at the State or regional level. To draw the reliable inferences at the national and regional levels; the study of parallel economies was also found necessary. In the second part of the research enquiry an objective analysis has been made of the problem at the State level, that is, the State of Madhya Pradesh. In the end an empirical study of Northern Mahakoshal has been made with a view to know the extent of agricultural unemployment and underemployment in the area under study. For this purpose, suitable research-technique and survey design was adopted, taking into consideration requirements of the study. The research and empirical work of this study was carried
out during the years 1962-64.

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