PRESENT PROBLEM
Sericulture, the production of silk is an important industry in India. Persons engaged in the process of silk manufacture are at high risk to develop branchial asthma believed to be allergenic in nature. Sustained silk production can not be achieved without a maximum involvement of people, sound in body and in mind. The well being of silk industry workers is of paramount relevant in the practice of silk production because healthy industrial community is more likely to sustain silk production than one weakened by infections and preoccupied with ill-health due to occupational health problems.

Two groups of persons were choosen because of their demographic characteristics. The population of the groups in the 30 to 50 year age range was studied between June to October, 1994. Nearly one thousand persons attend grainage Industry every day from various sericulture industries functioning in Anantapur (Dt). Each subject filled out a self administered health questionnaire information regarding respiratory symptoms and diseases due to inhalation of silk moth (*Bombyx mori* L.) scales during working hrs. Hypersensitivity by industrial chemicals, drugs and biological products leads to disfunction of several secondary immune functions. Shear et al., (1988) have shown that patients who have had hypersensitivity reactions to aromatic anticonvulsants can be distinguished from controls by exposing their respective lymphocytes in vitro oxidative
FIG. 1
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF GRAINACE INDUSTRY IN ANDHRA PRADESH
drug metabolites generated by a murine hepatic microsomal system, suggesting a common type of reactive metabolite is responsible for the hypersensitivity reactions. Eight patients clinically diagnosed as being hypersensitive to silk moth (*Bombyx mori* L.) scales have been identified.

The purpose of present study has also extended to assess the changes in phagocytic macrophage cell number in a group of allergic patients during active stage and during effective treatment, to assess the specificity of the immune change for allergic. The change in these parameters were also determined haematocrit values in a positively selected group of patients from sericulture grainage industry.