The present study is an attempt at a comprehensive and critical study of the Taxation Laws and their applications in Assam during the period 1947-87.

The thrust of the study has been adjusted so as to bring out the conduit lines serving as the feeder channels to the State exchequer and the distribution of the State financial benefits for the welfare projects supported and subsidised by the State Government.

The Sales Tax Laws are the most important laws of the State in the field of provincial taxation. After discussion of the concept of Taxation, this study is mainly concentrated to the critical study of those laws. The elasticity of Sales Tax is analysed taking into account rate structure of the tax and the yield from time to time. The part played by Sales Tax in the overall tax structure of Assam is also examined.

The incidence of Sales Tax is an important area of investigation. The classification of goods subjected to Assam Sales Tax and the exemption list is scrutinised with a view to establish their scientific characters and their subsequent applications. It is also investigated to what extent there is evasion as also avoidance of Sales Tax, and what factors economic, social and administrative have been responsible for such tax dodgings.
An attempt is made to examine suggestions like centralisation of sales tax, uniform sales tax throughout the country and substitution of sales tax by additional excise duties and value added tax.

The study also explores the possibilities and broad lines of sales tax reform with a view to making the tax syndrome more equitable, productive and elastic. In order to evaluate them critically with regard to their observance as also their acceptance by the community, it is submitted that this in-depth analysis of the proposals, if admitted to the privileges of legislative enactments or administrative fiats, wherever necessary would bring definite improvement to the present scenario. Although sources of study are mainly official sources comprising reports and publications, these sources are supplemented heavily by the actual field expertise collected and collated by the officials of the Sales Tax Department including the present investigator.

The leading court decisions are cited and are also taken into account in finding out the loop holes in tax legislations.

A comparative data in respect of Sales Tax and its administration in the neighbouring N.E. States of India are also appended.

I have been greatly benefitted by the writing of many
economists and Taxation Experts both Indian and foreign in the field of taxation economies. An exhaustive bibliography is appended at the end of the thesis. I express my grateful thanks to all these writers.

The present work has conveniently been divided into two parts: - Part - A and Part - B.

PART - A

Part - A deals with the general principles and history of taxation i.e. (a) Nature of Taxation (b) Ideology of Taxation (c) Distribution of revenue under the Constitution (d) Review of allocation of Taxing powers and Tax sharing (e) Constitutional limitations upon the taxing power.

PART - B

Part B deals with the (1) Present state of economy in Assam (2) State Taxation in general and resources mobilisation in Assam (3) Brief description of the State Taxation measures (other than Sales Taxes Groups) with their revenue implications (4) Analytical study of the main provision of Sales Tax Laws in the State (5) Taxes on consignment-sale (6) Taxes on inputs (7) Substitution of Sales Tax with additional excise duty (8) Value added Tax (9) Avoidance and evasion of Taxes and remedial measures (10) Suggested reforms in State Taxation (11) Brief
comparative study and revenue collection in neighbouring States

(12) Overall review of the Taxation system in Assam (13)

Conclusion.

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