PREFACE

Plywood is the second largest industry in the private sector in the state of Assam providing employment directly or indirectly to about 50,000 persons. It also makes a significant contribution to the state's exchequer by way of excise duties, sales tax, etc. Therefore the importance of this industry cannot be but significant. However, one disturbing feature of this industry is the poor industrial relations, which is partly due to the orthodox and traditional managements which own and manage the units and partly due to the demand of the workers and trade unions for higher wages and better living conditions. There was, therefore, more than enough justification for an intensive investigation into all aspects of labour management relations in the industry. But the task was made doubly difficult by the fact that no previous study of a similar or related nature had been done and data collection would be very difficult indeed. That I finally took it up was largely due to the support I received from my guide Dr N.C. Das, and other friends and well wishers.

The study is based upon direct contact with the management and owners of the plywood units, the various Trade Unions and their leaders in the industry and various Government departments. However a special word of thanks is due to Sri A.C. Das, Secretary Assam Plywood Manufacturers Association (APMA), Tinsukia, without whose help and co-operation this study may not have seen the light of the day.
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