

FOREWORD

When we attained Independence in 1947, we took over a country whose economic development had been impeded and even arrested by almost two centuries of foreign domination and continuation of feudal relationships. Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru and inspired by his vision and noble ideals, the country adopted the method of planned development based on modern science and technology to move towards the attainment of social justice. Through a series of Five-Year Plans, major changes have taken place in our economy and society and the country has become largely self-reliant. Foundations have been laid for building the edifice of socialism. In this, the third Volume of the Gazetteer of India entitled "Economic Structure and Activities", an attempt has been made to tell the story of transition of an old civilization to a new nation, of the change from the traditional to a modern economy.

The contributors to this Volume are men of distinction in their chosen fields. They have lent to this work the benefit of their profound scholarship. I hope this Volume of the Gazetteer will be welcomed by all who are interested in the economic life of the people and the impressive strides our economy has made since Independence, in spite of many hazards and obstacles.

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