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## PREFACE

## Object and scope of the study :

Among the 289 urban areas in Maharashtra as defined in the 1971 Census, there are 222 municipal towns, 5 corporation towns and 62 non-municipal towns. Out of the 222 municipal councils, 20 are 'A' Class Municipal Councils, 34 are 'B' Class and 168 are 'C' Class Municipal Councils.

These towns are at different levels of develop-They differ from one another in several respects. ment. Their regional settings and climatological features are different, their functional importances are different and so are also the levels of infrastructural development or per capita incomes. While the census publications provide a lot of useful information about the demographic features of these towns and the Municipal Year Books furnish details of incomes and expenditures of the Municipal Councils, there is no publication which provides consolidated information about the levels of physical and social infrastructural development of the various towns, their planning achievements or planning deficiencies and level of social facilities etc. Development Plans of all these Municipal towns have been prepared which contain a fund of information on several socio-economic and physical aspects of the towns based on surveys carried out at the time of preparation of the Development Plans. This information is however not available any where in a consolidated and concise form. It was felt that a publication containing information on all aspects of the towns in Maharashtra i.e. demographic, economic, physical and social would be useful not only to town planners but also to other social Scientists and administrators as well.

This Town Directory is an attempt in that direction. Information compiled and presented in this Town Directory has been collected mainly through secondary sources viz. census publications, Municipal Year Books published by the Bureau of Economics, District Gazetteers and Development Plan Reports. The information from the Development Plan Reports has been up-dated where necessary. Some information such as relating to water supply and drainage was also collected through correspondence with the concerned Departments/Municipal Councils. The response from the Municipal Councils was quite good as 142 Municipal Councils out of 222 i.e. nearly 64% supplied the information as asked for in the formats as prescribed.

To assess the increase in the facilities and the level of service during the time progression, all Municipal. Councils were requested to supply information as at two time stages, viz. 1970-71 and 1975-76. However, unfortunately such information for the two time stages has not been properly supplied by many municipal councils and as such it has not been possible to throw any light on the increase in the facilities or the level of service during the time progression.

To be really useful, the Town Directory will have to be updated periodically. If the idea and attempt to compile and present such a Town Directory is appreciated and found useful, we would certainly undertake such periodical updating.

The present volume relates to Ratnagiri District and would be followed by similar volumes of other Districts.

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