PREFACE

The Jalpaiguri District Gazetteer is the eleventh in the series of West Bengal District Gazetteers. An early Gazetteer on this district was written by J. F. Gruning in the series, Eastern Bengal and Assam District Gazetteers—Jalpaiguri, printed at Allahabad in 1911. The District Census Handbook, 1951—Jalpaiguri by Asok Mitra, ICS (Retd.), presented further information.

The present volume was part of the Scheme for Revision or Gazetteers, jointly originated by the Governments of India and West Bengal. Its writing began in 1973; it was completed in 1974 and sent to press in 1978. Exigencies of power supply and other problems in the printing industry have regrettably delayed its publication. The Central Government part of the scheme came to an end in 1981. Unlike previous volumes, the volume is being published solely from the resources of the Government of West Bengal.

I have the pleasant duty of recording this office’s gratefulness to various officers and members of the staff of the District Gazetteers Unit for their part in the publication of this volume, which was sent to the press before I took up my duties here. Shri A. M. Kusari, IAS (Retd.), originated the plan and edited the entire draft, before it went to press. Under the previous practice in this office, his name would have appeared as Editor of this volume. Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, IAS (Retd.), and Shri Bimal Ranjan Chakraborti, IAS, who were his successors have also contributed to editing the volume.

The following officers made preliminary drafts. Chapters I, VI, VII, VIII, XII, XIV–XVII and XIX were written by Dr. Sankarananda Mukerji, WBCS, then Assistant Editor and at present Assistant Secretary, Finance Department, Government of West Bengal. Chapters II and III, XI and the second part of XVIII were written by Shri Pranabranjan Ray, Assistant Editor. Chapters IV and V were written by Shri Kiransarker Sengupta, WBCS, Research Officer (Retd.). Chapters VII, IX, X and XII and the first part of XVIII were written by Shri Satyaranjan Sengupta, Assistant Editor. The bibliography and index have been prepared by Smt. Subha Som, at present Research Officer.
The draft chapters were sent to New Delhi for scrutiny by the Central Gazetteers Unit of the Department of Culture, Ministry of Education, on the basis of whose comments certain changes have been made and incorporated in the body of the text. They were also scrutinized by the members of the Advisory Committee of the West Bengal District Gazetteers. Thanks of this office are extended to members at that time, Shri B. Sarkar, ICS (Retd.), Chairman, Dr. S. B. Choudhury, retired Vice-Chancellor, Burdwan University and Dr. P. C. Gupta, retired Vice-Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University.

Photographs of places illustrated in the text have been supplied by the Information and Cultural Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal, and of people, by the Cultural Research Institute, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal.

The then Head Assistant of this office and all his colleagues, notably the Comparers, Copy-Holders, Typists, Stenographers, Proof-Readers, Publication Assistant and Research Assistants sincerely cooperated in writing and publishing of this volume. In particular, Shri Debabrata Ray Majumdar, Publication Assistant and the publication staff associated with him have exerted themselves in seeing the volume through the press; and Shri P. Ray, Assistant Editor took much of the load of supervising the last stages of publication off my shoulders. My thanks are expressed to all of them.

We trust that this volume will be useful to all concerned with life and affairs in Jalpaiguri district. If some errors do indeed remain and are pointed out to this office, no pains will be spared to incorporate corrections in later edition or revision of this volume.

BARUN DE
Honorary State Editor

1st July, 1981,
Calcutta,