Preface

Family Living Surveys conducted so far in this country revealed data on consumer expenditure only, needed for the construction or revision of consumer price indices. The modern concept of Family Living Survey does not, however, rest with the collection of data on consumer expenditure only. A Family Living Survey should yield data for studying the total inter-related effect of the different components of levels of living. In this sense, the Family Living Survey becomes a multi-subject survey covering economic, demographic, social and administrative factors affecting levels of living because there is always a web of mutual interaction among the different constituents of the levels of living. In this broader perspective, the Government of India conducted Family Living Surveys among workers at 50 important industrial centres during 1958-59. The object was not only to derive weighting diagrams for compilation of consumer price index numbers but also to enable an analysis of the levels of living.

The object of bringing out this volume is to present the mass of data thrown up by the surveys relating to 10 important industrial centres in four different regions of the country. The study gives inter-centre, vis-a-vis inter-region levels of living of the industrial workers. An attempt has also been made to evaluate the changes in the levels of living of the industrial workers over a period of time.

We were earlier approached by Dr. V. B. Singh, M. A. Ph.D., D. Litt., Editor of the "Indian Journal of Labour Economics" to contribute articles on the subject on which we have been working in the Labour Bureau, Department of Labour & Employment, Government of India for nearly a decade. The publication of two articles in the above Journal aroused interest of many and he proposed the idea
of bringing out a book on the subject. In the course of the preparation of the book also Dr. Singh offered valuable comments and suggestions. For this, we are thankful to him. We are also grateful to Dr. Singh for his indefatigable efforts in the publication of the book and in preparing the manuscripts and for writing a Note to this volume. This work is done under the auspices of the Indian Society of Labour Economics. We shall be failing in our duty if we do not mention about the encouragements given to us by Shri K. K. Bhatia, Director, Labour Bureau, in the preparation of manuscripts. The revised materials of this book serially appeared in “Human Events,” Monthly Organ of the Monograph Association of India, Calcutta for which we owe a debt to its editor. Messrs Indian Publications, the publishers have done a commendable job by bringing out this volume within a very short time. To them also our thanks are due.

We humbly initiate the study of the concept of ‘Levels of Living’ in this volume for the benefit of the students of Economics and Statistics as well as for the researchers. We are aware, there would be drawbacks in such studies of exploratory nature. The present study covers only the most important centres. We propose to cover some more important centres, reports for which are getting ready. Suggestions for improvements from readers for future editions would be gratefully acknowledged.

The views expressed in the book are those of the authors and not of the Government of India. We dedicate the book to our parents with profound gratitude.

Simla, February

B. P. Guha

J. N. Sharma