PREFACE

The present volume of the Mahendragarh District Gazetteer is the eighth in the series of the revised District Gazetteers of Haryana. Before Independence, the Narnaul and Mahendragarh tahsils of this district formed a part of former Princely State of Patiala. A brief account pertaining to the present district of Mahendragarh is available in the Phulkian States Gazetteer, 1904, published by the then Punjab Government and Imperial Gazetteer of India, (Provincial Series), 1908, originally drafted by Mr. H.A. Rose, I.C.S.

During the post-Independence period, many changes have taken place in social, economic and political conditions of the district. On socio-economic side, major changes have been brought about by the implementation of the Five-Year Plans. The introduction of sprinkler method of irrigation in this desertic area is the singular most significant transformation which has taken place in recent years. Hence, this gazetteer is not only a geographical and historcial record but also tries to depict most of the major changes brought out by the development process in the district.

The preparation of a new gazetteer is a task involving many people and institutions; while it is not possible to acknowledge each of their contributions individually. I am grateful to all the institutions and persons who were primarily responsible for supplying the basic data/information to the Gazetteers Unit.

I am full of appreciation for the officers and staff of the State Gazetteers Unit for their hard work and zeal. Sarvshri Jeet Ram Ranga, Joint State Editor (Gazetteers); Padam Singh Ahlawat, Research Officer; Rajender Kumar Malhotra, Superintendent and Shri Tej Bhan, Assistant handled the miscellaneous assignments very efficiently. Dr. H.A. Phadke and Dr. K.C. Yadav of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra wrote ancient and medieval and modern sections of chapter on History respectively, and Dr. V.K. Sharma of the same University drafted the write-up on topography of the district.

Thanks are due to the Controller, Printing and Stationery Department, Haryana, Chandigarh and all their staff for extending full cooperation in the printing of this volume.

S.P. BHATIA, I.A.S.

Chandigarh, January 15, 1988. State Editor (Gazetteers) and Joint Secretary to Government, Haryana, Revenue Department.