

PREFACE

The Gazetteer, which literally meaning a geographical index of dictionary, has a much wider scope. It is the most authentic source of information on the political, social and economic activities of the people of a district. This is the first gazetteer of this district and it is the tenth in the revision series of Haryana gazetteers.

The Sonipat district as on March 31, 1989, was a part of two districts before 1912. The Sonipat area had remained attached to the Delhi district since the year 1861, was added to the Rohtak district in September, 1912, on the separation of Delhi territory from Punjab. Gohana tahsil remained a part of the Rohtak district till the formation of Sonipat as a separate district on December 22, 1972. The Gohana sub-division was again included in the Rohtak district on 16th October, 1989. However, as per reference year (March 31, 1989), the account of Gohana sub-division had to be included in this gazetteer.

The headquarters of the district is situated in Sonipat town which is one of the most ancient places of India. The historians give their finding as evidence that Sonipat town was habitated even in Mahabharata age.

As per direction of the Government the draft gazetteer of Sonipat was placed before the Advisory Committee which was constituted at district level under chairmanship of Shri K. K. Jalan, the then Deputy commissioner of Sonipat. The Committee scrutinized the MSS minutely.

I am very much grateful for the guidance given by Shri A. Banerjee, I. A. S., the then F. C. R. and Shri R. D. Garg, I.A.S., the then Joint Secretary, Revenue (now Commissioner). Shri A. Bannerjee, the then F. C. R., perused the whole of the draft gazetteer and gave valuable suggestions which surely improved the quality of the gazetteer.

Various departments of the State and Central Government, semi-government organizations and individuals, who made available necessary material for this volume and also helped in many other ways in its compilation, deserve thanks. My thanks are due to Shri Padam Singh Ahlawat, Research Officer and other officials of Gazetteers Unit who assisted me in the compilation of this Volume. Dr. H. A. Padke of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra wrote the

ancient section of History Chapter while the other two sections, Medieval and Modern of History Chapter were compiled by me. Dr. V. K. Sharma, of Kurukshetra University drafted the topography portion of 1st Chapter.

The gazetteer has been prepared on a pattern modelled by the Government of India and I hope it would be of immense help to the administrators, research workers and general readers alike.

JEET RAM RANGA,

Joint State Editor (Gazetteers).

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