

## PREFACE

Water and land resources, mineral, fossil-fuel and forest wealth are the nature's bounties available to humanity. Happiness or misery and survival or extinction of mankind is entirely dependent on the use, disuse or misuse of these resources. All these resources are bound to become scarce sooner or later owing to galloping demands of the ever increasing population of the world.

Mountainous areas of the Great Himalayas provide us pure water, food, fodder and fuel. They represent a very fragile land and a sensitive hydrological regime. The greed of mankind and over-exploitation of the precious natural resources world wide has caused severe damage to the ecosystem of the mountainous regions. Therefore, the development of the Western Himalayan Region is to be carefully planned and scientifically executed to prevent any negative impacts following the developmental activities.

Considering the need for a better understanding of the hydrology of the Western Himalayan region, the Western Himalayan Regional Centre of National Institute of Hydrology, is organizing a one-day *Brain Storming Session* on Hydrological Problems and Perspectives in Western Himalayan Region, at Jammu. The objectives of this session are to discuss the present state-of-art in hydrological research of the region and to identify the thrust areas of research in near future for efficient utilization of limited resources. About ten invited technical papers have been included in the pre-session proceedings. I hope that the discussions during the session and recommendations made at the end would be useful in planning the hydrological R & D programme for this region. This activity will also be beneficial to the participants and they will be benefitted by the deliberations.

S M Seth  
Director