5. TECHNIQUES OF RESEARCH

Sampling procedure

The present study is an endeavour to measure the development of land reform programme and its effect on rural West Bengal during Left Front regime. This development not only includes economic development but other facets of social and infrastructure development like as poverty, rural employment, rural development, education, health etc. also included. No focal theme has been considered for this study because it tries to capture the some aspect of socio-economic development in rural West Bengal.

This study was conducted in the State of West Bengal, because this State has been considered as one of the States in which land reforms have been implemented effectively.

West Bengal has been divided into five geographical zones:

I. Darjeeling-Jalpaiguri zone (Hilly zone)
II. Malda – Coochbehar – Uttar Dinajpur – Dakshin Dinajpur zone (Tarai zone)
III. Murshidabad – Nadia – Hooghly – Howrah zone (Gangetic Plain zone)
IV. Birbhum – Burdwan – Purulia – Bankura zone (part of chottanagpur plateau zone)
V. Midnapore – 24 Parganas (North), 24-Parganas (South) zone (coastal zone).

For an indepth study in the State of West Bengal, I have selected two districts namely, (1) Burdwan (2) 24-Parganas (North) representing two zones. The district of Burdwan is selected as it represent the Rice Bowl of this State, while North 24-Parganas district is chosen to represent the coastal zone with saline soil condition.

Method and sources of data collection

Data were collected from two major sources namely (a) primary and (b) secondary sources.

Primary sources of information pertaining to household information like socio-economic background of the selected house holds, real benefit from the land, if at all accrued from the govt. vested land, type of other development programmes whether they are receiving it or not, their opinion towards present farming condition and etc. in West
Bengal have collected through structured household questionnaire with the help of personal interview and participant observation.

Secondary sources of information pertaining to land related information like, year of distribution of land, size of land and year of registration and ownership were collected from government land records and other documents, for example, national & state level data from *National Human Development report, 2001* and *West Bengal Human Development Report-2004*. The year-wise *Statistical Abstract and Economic Review of Govt. of West Bengal* published by Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics are an important data sources for the collection of govt. data. District Statistical Handbook (DSH) is another publication of the Bureau that contains database for each district. Census Reports provide important data having significant bearing with development issues. Data on sex ratio, literacy rate, workers classification etc. are taken from the census publications. The Department of Panchayats and Rural Development of Govt. of West Bengal publishes data on the panchayat bodies and rural development programmes administered by them. The related data also collected from the various daily newspapers, magazines, journals etc. for the purposes.

Govt. and Panchayat officials dealing with land and other development programmes were interviewed to get their views regarding scope of integration with other rural development programmes. The following Govt. and Panchayat officials will be interviewed from each block (a) B.L. & L.R.O & (b) Gram Pradhan for gathering more information of the study.