The 31st report in the series of Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India-1997 is unique in the sense that it falls during the 50th year of India’s Independence. When compared to the decades that have passed, the current scenario of fatalities of Accidents and Suicides presents a grim picture causing anxiety. The loss of a large number of precious human lives, is indeed a matter of serious concern. While the loss on account of ‘act of God or Nature’ seems understandable, the termination of human life in avoidable accidents, calamities and also by self inflicted ends requires attention by the society.

2. Our endeavor in disseminating the information on accidents and suicides from its various facets may have its value and utility only when the concerned authorities, through their intervention and strategies provide a lasting solution to the problem and contain such occurrences. Further, It gives me pleasure in bringing out this report within 8 months of the previous issue.

3. I am sure the civil administrators, sociologists, researchers and other agencies concerned shall find this publication quite handy in charting out their programs and policies.

4. My thanks are due to the Heads of Police Organization of States/UTs who furnished the massive information required for this publication. I earnestly look forward for their continued support. The Officers and Staff of NCRB associated with the report deserve my appreciation.

5. Comments and suggestions for its improvement and modification will be most welcome.

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NEW DELHI

SHARDA PRASAD
DIRECTOR