PREFACE

We are happy to place the annual report, 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India-1988', in the hands of our readers for their use and record. It is an annual publication of the National Crime Records Bureau which presents statistics of accidental deaths and suicides in India into three parts. Part-I deals with figures of 'Accidental Deaths' under various heads and Part-II presents statistics in respect of various heads of 'Suicides' while Part-III of the report gives detailed statistics in the form of the Appendices relating to the topics covered in the first two parts of the report.

The number of accidental deaths has been showing a steady upward trend rising from 1,08,987 in 1979 to an all-time high of 1,63,522 in 1988. The total accidental deaths involve 67.4% males and 32.6% females. 35.2% of the total accidental deaths occurred in the age-group of 18–30 years, 31.3% in the age-group of 30–50 years, 18.5% in the age-group of below 18 years, while 15.0% of such deaths took place in the age-group of above 50 years.

Similarly, the number of suicides has also been showing an upward trend continuously since 1978 rising from 40,245 in 1981 to an all-time high of 64,270 in 1988. The total suicidal deaths include 58.7% males and 41.3% females. 43.4% of the total suicidal deaths occurred in the age-group of 18–30 years, 29.9% in the age-group of 30–50 years, 14.0% in the age-group of above 50 years, while 12.7% of such deaths took place in the age-group of below 18 years.

The compilation is based on the figures furnished by the States/Union Territories and the Metropolitan Cities. It is our experience that the correct, consistent and complete data from all the concerned States/UTs and Cities are not received in time as a result of which there is considerable delay in its publication. The non-availability of such data from even a single State/UT or City can hold up the whole process of finalisation of this useful and important annual report at the national level. We solicit, therefore, the co-operation of all concerned police authorities in making available to us the requisite data for the future issues of this publication so that we can bring them out in time.

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