

Preface

The Constitution of India gives the President the power to impose 'his' rule in a state where, on a report from the Governor or otherwise, there has been a failure of the constitutional machinery in the state. This is an extremely wide power. It has been used with increasing frequency by succeeding governments. And yet, despite, a handful of articles, there was no separate book or work on the subject.

This project was commissioned in 1974-5. The person in charge of the project at that time was Dr. Hari Chand. Dr. Hari Chand wrote a monograph on the subject. The pace of political events, the discovery of more events and research made it necessary to consider the revision of Dr. Hari Chand's original work. This task was entrusted to me in the fall of 1977. I decided to start afresh and write a new project. Since the project has been commissioned several other works have been written on this subject. Prominent among these is S. Maheshwari's comprehensive and interesting book *President's Rule in India* (1977) which along with J.R. Siwach's *The Office of the Governor* (1977) proved to be a source of a lot of valuable information. The existence of these works has altered the tone and structure of this project. The project relies on these works for material information and concentrates on analysing the unique phenomena of President's rule.

This book would be incomplete if it did not record my gratitude to Kusum, who spent an enormous amount of time tidying up this manuscript and making a valuable fund of useful suggestions. I am also grateful to Professor Alice Jacob, Dr. S.N. Jain, the late Shri Shanti S. Dhavan, Shri Bhagwan Sahay and Shri Dharma Vira who permitted me to intrude on their time. Shri Parmod Singh in the Indian Law Institute Library virtually acted as a research assistant. It goes without saying that I must shoulder responsibility for the project and its contents.

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