

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Preface</i> | xi |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | xvii |
| <i>List of Illustrations</i> | xix |
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| Objectives of the Study | 2 |
| Methodology | 2 |
| Ethnography | 3 |
| 2. THE CONCEPT OF EX-CRIMINAL TRIBES: DENOTIFIED TRIBES | 7 |
| 3. LAMAN BANJARAS: THE PEOPLE | 13 |
| Origin and Geographical Spread | 15 |
| Laman Banjara in India and Maharashtra | 17 |
| Settlement Pattern | 19 |
| Social Structure and Social Institutions | 24 |
| Marriage | 27 |
| Extra-Marital Affairs | 35 |
| Divorce | 35 |
| Widow Remarriage | 36 |
| Marriage by Force | 37 |
| Polygamy | 37 |
| Family | 37 |
| Child Birth Ceremonies | 38 |
| Adoption | 42 |
| Death | 42 |
| Kinship | 45 |
| Status of Women | 46 |
| 4. CULTURE | 49 |
| The Concept of Culture | 49 |
| Dress | 49 |
| Food Habit | 51 |
| Language | 53 |

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Music | 53 |
| Dhawalo or Ritual Weeping | 53 |
| Saki or Short Stories | 54 |
| Cultural Troupes | 54 |
| Education | 55 |
| Recreation | 58 |
| 5. RELIGION | 59 |
| Ancestor Worship | 60 |
| Kawar Basa | 60 |
| Clan Totem Worship | 61 |
| Akadi—Settlement Puja | 63 |
| Idol Worship | 63 |
| Nandi Worship | 65 |
| Maruti Puja | 65 |
| Kartik Puja | 65 |
| Viththal-Rukmini | 66 |
| Mother Goddess Worship | 66 |
| Mariamma or Jagdamba | 67 |
| Samki Mata Worship | 67 |
| Sati Puja | 68 |
| Pochamai Puja | 69 |
| Sittla Puja | 69 |
| Firasti Mata or Firesta Ayi | 70 |
| Nature Worship | 70 |
| Tree Worship | 70 |
| Gowr Puja | 72 |
| Salsukhe | 72 |
| Samananka | 73 |
| Worship of Mithu Bhukia | 73 |
| Ohti Bharna — Fertility Cult | 73 |
| Festivals | 73 |
| Dusserah | 74 |
| Teej or Siral | 75 |
| Diwali | 79 |
| Holi | 82 |
| Dandeghalero | 86 |
| Lunkad | 87 |
| Jawal | 87 |
| Dharti Puja | 87 |
| Sita Puja | 88 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Nagpanchami | 88 |
| Pachvimal | 88 |
| Pola | 89 |
| Pawda Barsi | 90 |
| Balaji | 90 |
| Ram Navami | 91 |
| Dattaray Jatra | 91 |
| Religious Mendicants | 92 |
| Saint Worship | 93 |
| Seva Bhaya | 93 |
| Appa Maharaj | 96 |
| Mala Ada | 97 |
| Samat Sati | 97 |
| Deokar Maharaj | 99 |
| Sonamai | 99 |
| Worship of Hindu Reformers | 100 |
| Banjaras and Islam | 100 |
| Banjaras and Sikhism | 102 |
| Superstitions among Banjaras | 103 |
| Pilgrimage | 106 |
| Pohradevi | 106 |
| 6. ECONOMY | 109 |
| Property | 114 |
| Idebtedness and Farmer's Suicide | 115 |
| 7. SOCIAL ORGANISATION | 119 |
| Naik | 119 |
| Karvari | 120 |
| Dhalia | 120 |
| Sonar | 120 |
| Nahvi | 120 |
| Dhadi | 121 |
| Bhat | 121 |
| Singari | 121 |
| Political Leadership | 124 |
| Janta Sikshan Prasarak Mandal | 128 |
| Gramin Sikshan Prasarak Mandal | 128 |
| Sevadal Nagrik Sahkari Pat Sanstha | 129 |
| Jagdamba Devi Sansthan, Sreerampur, Pusad | 129 |
| Banjara Kranti Dal | 129 |
| Ghar Ghari System | 129 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| 8. HEALTH CARE, DISEASE AND TREATMENT | 131 |
| 9. SOCIAL PROBLEMS — CONTROVERSY OF SCHEDULED TRIBE STATUS | 135 |
| Social Reforms and Scheduled Tribe Status | 135 |
| 10. SOCIAL CHANGE AND CONCLUSION | 137 |
| Select Bibliography and References | 143 |
| Index | 147 |
| Illustrations | 153 |