CONTENTS

| | Page No. |
|---|--|
| Preface | v |
| CHAPTER 1 SOIL STRUCTURE AND COMPONE | NTS 1 |
| (a) Organic matter | |
| (b) Soil moisture | |
| (c) Soil atmosphere | |
| (d) Living population | |
| | soil, biomass, pattern of distribution, pre- fecting soil bacteria, biological activity. |
| (ii) Fungi: Isolation techniques, type of fungi in soil, factors affecting | of fungal structures, type of fungi in soil, role fungi in soil. |
| (iii) Actinomycetes: Types, activity. | |
| (iv) Algae: Types, factors affecting so | il algae. |
| (v) Protozoa: Types, methods of stud | y, mode of nutrition, role played in soil. |
| (vi) Viruses: Types, functions. | |
| CHAPTER 2 MICROORGANISMS ASSOCIATED | 52 WITH PLANT ROOTS |
| | r study of rhizosphere microflora, microbial anic matter lost from roots, factors affecting roflora and host plants. |
| (b) Mycorrhiza: Introduction, mycorrhizal microorganisms, mycorrhiza and carb | l types, function of mycorrhiza and other on balance. |
| CHAPTER 3 SOIL MICROORGANISMS AND ORG | 83 GANIC MATTER DECOMPOSITION |
| Introduction, invasion of plant tissue by | microorganisms, cellulose, hemicellulose, |

lignin, starch, pectic substances, inulin, chitin, gum, factors affecting microbial

decay.

| CHAPTER 4 MICROBIAL DECOMPOSITION OF HERBICIDES | 105 |
|--|-----|
| 2,4-D, 2,4-trichlorophenoxy acetic acid, phenyl carbamate, phenyl urea, acylanilide, malathion etc. | |
| CHAPTER 5 TRANSFORMATION OF MINERALS | 110 |
| Transformation of phosphorus, sulphur, iron, manganese. | |
| CHAPTER 6 NITROGEN CYCLE | 121 |
| Introduction, nitrogen cycle and microorganisms, nitrification, nitrate reduction, nitrogen fixation - non symbiotic nitrogen fixation, bacteria, blue green algae; symbiotic nitrogen fixation - legumes and <i>Rhizobium</i> , nodule formation, biochemistry of nitrogen fixation - actinorrhizal system, leaf nodule associations, <i>Azospirillum</i> species, factors affecting nitrogen fixation. | |
| REFERENCES | 146 |