FRONT SIDE OF THE SYSTEM UNIT

The various components usually seen in the front portion of the system unit and their functions are as follows:

Power Switch or Button. Turns ON or OFF the power of the computer.

Reset Button. This button helps one restart the computer without disconnecting the power supply.

Lights. The front portion may display some coloured indicator lights. These lights indicate whether the hard disk, floppy disk or the CD-ROM is being read or written to.

Floppy Disk Drive. The floppy disk drive is used to read the information stored in floppy disk (also called diskettes). The System Unit contains a slit (drive) in which the floppy disk can be inserted. The floppy disk drive consists of a slot to accept a floppy disk, a motor to spin the disk, and a recording/reading device that moves across the disk to read or write data. A floppy disk, like a hard disk, is used to store information.

CD-ROM Drive. CD-ROM Drive is a device that reads the information stored on CD-ROM disks and displays it on the monitor. CD-ROM stands for 'Compact Disk – Read Only Memory.' The information stored in a CD-ROM can neither be changed nor new information be added to it. That is why it is called Read Only Memory (ROM). The speed of a CD-ROM drive is indicated by a number followed by the alphabet "X." Greater the number, faster the spin of disk to the computer. The 56X CD-ROM is currently the most popular drive specification. For recording on a CD, a special CD drive known as 'CD-RW' is used. The CD-ROM disk is flat and circular in shape and can store lot more information as compared to a floppy disk.

CD-Writer. In 1990, the CD-ROM technique was further refined to enable the user write data on CD. To make your own CD-ROMs, you use a drive, which can write on special CD-ROM disks. Now, two types of writable CDs are available. One is the CD-ReWritable (CD-RW) on which you write data many times by erasing the data written on it earlier. These disks have a

temperature-sensing layer, which can be changed by writing. On the second type of writable CD, you can write data on any given part just once. This CDR disk is also called a WORM disk (Write Once Read Many). Writing data on a CD is also termed as *burning CD*. The device used for CD writing is known as CD burner or writer. Once a CDR is burnt, it can be read in most new CD drives for sound, video, or data. Most people use CD-writers for copying music, documents, images and program.