Acknowledgement

It gives me great pleasure in acknowledging the many debts I incurred in the course of this work. I express my profound gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Zoya Hasan for her guidance, constructive criticisms, invaluable suggestions and genuine concern. Prof. Zoya Hasan was a continuing source of inspiration and encouragement during the course of this study. I shall forever be thankful to her for the consistent support, inexhaustible patience and tireless enthusiasm at every stage which enabled me to complete this research work.

I take great pleasure in acknowledging my debt of gratitude to other faculty members of the Centre, especially Prof. Sudha Pai and Dr. T. G. Suresh. In the course of the study the help and enthusiasm given by Prof. S. N. Jha, my former teacher and M. Phil. research supervisor at Centre for Political Studies, JNU, was also valuable. My indebtedness to him is immeasurable. My former teachers like Prof. M. Bhaskaran Nair, Prof. G. Gopakumar, Dr. J. Prabhash and Dr. C. Muraleedharan of Department of Political Science, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, have been supportive in my research work and was instrumental in motivating me to sustain my academic interests. I acknowledge their constant encouragement.

In fact, the research work has been enriched by the interviews conducted during the study. I am indebted to the leaders of the Congress party, especially Dr. Manmohan Singh, Mani Shankar Aiyar and Vayalar Ravi for sparing some time from their busy schedules in Parliament and party politics. As key players in the formulation of Congress party’s economic policies and strategies, their views were extremely beneficial for my research. I convey my thanks to them for their help and cooperation to this academic endeavour.

I have incurred many other debts while writing the thesis. A number of friends come to my mind: Appu Joseph, Krishnakumar, Prakash Narayanan, Vinoj Abraham, Biju Mathew, Boby Mathew, Burton Cleetus, Dimpi Divakaran, Liyaqath Ali, Cheri Jacob, Udaya Kumar, are just a few who helped me at various stages of the study. In fact, I cannot push the name of a friend, Mohammad Shahin to a secondary position while thanking my friends. He has been a great source of help in typing of manuscripts. I express my deep gratitude to him.
I also wish to thank the librarians and staff of the JNU central library, Exim Bank (JNU) library, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy library, National Council for Applied Economic Research library, Institute of Economic Growth library, Central Secretariat library, Ratan Tata library, ICSSR library, Indian Institute of Public Administration library, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, AICC library, Centre for Studies in Developing Societies library and Centre for Development Studies library at Thiruvananthapuram for their assistance and cooperation in consulting books and resource materials.

More importantly, I cannot ignore my family members who shared my pains and pleasures during my academic journey. In spite of their engagement with earning daily bread and lack of much awareness and formal education, they were supportive of my every academic endeavour. Without their blessings and support, the research would not have been completed in time. I must gratefully acknowledge my debt of gratitude to my family members.

Last, but not the least, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all my former teachers, friends and well-wishers who helped me in numerous ways in my scholarly pursuits.

V. BIJUKUMAR