Acknowledgement

As I submit my thesis, it gives me a sense of immense pleasure to express my gratitude to all those who have contributed in their special way to make the completion of this thesis possible.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Nirupam Roy Choudhury for his confidence in me all these years and in allowing me to work freely. His simplicity, immense patience, encouragement and positive attitude have always kept me motivated throughout the course of the study. His technical advices and suggestions were of great help in solving the problems.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Sunil K. Mukherjee for his valuable advice, excellent guidance and encouragement. His insight into the subject has always made me realize and understand the subject in a broader perspective. Without his invaluable suggestions this study could have never taken its current shape. I will always remain indebted to him for whatever I learned during these four years.

I sincerely thank Prof. S. K. Sopory, Group Leader, PMB for providing the valuable suggestions and all the necessary facilities. His simple personality and scientific attitude had always inspired me. I also thank him for his consideration and support.

I would like to thank Prof. V. S. Chauhan, Director, ICGEB, who gave me the opportunity to work at ICGEB. His support at various stages in these past four years is duly acknowledged.

I am thankful to Profs. S. C. Maheshwari, Nirmala Maheshwari and Drs. Narendra Tuteja, M. K. Reddy, Raj Bhatnagar, Nirupama Bhatnagar, Suresh Nair, V. S. Reddy and L. Sadhu for their valuable suggestions and support. I also acknowledge the help provided by Drs. Snehlata, Neeti, Rajagopal, Sudesh, Dhiraj, Meenu, Tanushri, Anita, Rekha, Suminder, Deepthi and Chandra.

I thank my seniors Punjab, Vineetha, B. N. Singh, Mintu, Wricha, Dasaradhi, Kannan, Sidharth, Basavaraj, Ajay, Rabi, Atish, Milan, Divya and Shilpi for their constant support and making learning easier. I also thank Preeti and Parul for their help.

I would like to thank all my batch mates in ICGEB, Saima, Ruchi, Gawthman, Ravi, Tatiana, Pooja, Alka, Anand, Ruvini and Ngoc whose help and support always boosted up my spirits. I was lucky to have such a wonderful friends around me. I thank Dinesh for being a wonderful roommate.
I am also thankful to all the members of “COMPANY”, Sandip, Moin, Nurul, Dhiraj, Vaibhao, Anuja and Suchita for a wonderful time that we shared together during our stay at ICGEB.

I am also thankful to my juniors- Vikash, Kosalai, Prerna, Kalyan, Sumona, Shikha, Usha, Pradipto, Subhra, Hattem, Ramesh, Subhashish, Vibhor, Pranjal and Anando for providing lighter and cheerful moment during my stay at ICGEB.

All the members of the plant floor are also acknowledged for providing a pleasant and friendly environment to work including Chandan, Dinesh and Ramesh.

The financial help provided by CSIR, Govt. of India, for pursuing my thesis is duly acknowledged.

Finally, but not the least, I would like to thank my parents, brothers Arvind and Janak, bhabhi Pushpa and Savita, sister Anita, Jija ji Mani Bhushan, for their love, care and motivation for me all these years.

Dharmendra