ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am deeply indebted to my Supervisor Prof. Amitabh Kundu for guiding this doctoral thesis to completion. His concerns were not confined to steering every word of this text to a meaningful existence - he also inculcated, in the process of our association, a "culture of intuitive thinking" in me which will exist much beyond my immediate pursuits. I would like to take up this opportunity to thank the faculty of the CSRD for moulding me into what can be best called a 'product' of the Centre. Prof. G.S. Bhalla, Prof. G.K. Chaddha, Prof. Premi, Prof. Mathur, Dr. Thorat, Dr. R.K. Sharma and Prof. Atya Habib had been constant source of inspiration. Prof. M.H. Qureshi spared his time and valuable first hand informations which were of great help. My thanks are also due to the Centre staff who have seen me grow up over the years - and has been bearing with my tantrums for long.

Many people, extremely hard pressed for time and many of them under compulsion not to divulge information has often been generously available and informative. Mr Sudipto Roy, Mr. J.C. Gambhir, Mr. V.K. Dutt, Mr. R.G. Gupta and Mr. Chandu Bhutia from DDA were extremely co-operative and cordial. I must also thank Mr. Gugani of the Delhi Administration for helping me understand his nature of work. Once this thesis is submitted Mrs. Sipra Maitra will be surely relieved from my frequent invasions in her office for my unending enquiries. I acknowledge the help I got from the AMDA, HSMI, NIIFP and Delhi SPA libraries.

I have been very benevolently bestowed by nature with friends and well wishers who have waited long to see this research come to an end. Sharad-Sangeeta, Sumana-Mona, Ashok - who stood by me in troubled times, Mitra, Soumen, Krish-Ananya, Adhar Susmito - with their unfailing trust, Pankaj, Sudhakar, Rajiv, Pattu Sanjeev and Bhabhi(s) - in constant touch, Abhay, Neel, Raju, Chotu, Pawan - running around in odd hours, Niraj-Kakoli, Marcus-Lazmi - who never said no and B. Subodh who kept me sane over the years are the indespensibles. Sanat, Kundu, Partha, Nabrun - from far off places wished they could do something more then wishing good!

I regret missing many names which needed mention here.

Words will fail to express the gratitude due to Anil and Rita of M/s A.P. Computers for the production job done neatly.

I would like to thank the UGC for funding my research work.

Finally, my gratitude to my parents who have heared it all.

Somnath Basu