ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my profound appreciation and sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Jas Vir Singh, Ph.D., D.Litt. for his inspiring and painstaking guidance, unflagging interest, constant inspiration, encouragement and constructive criticism throughout the entire course of present investigations and during the preparation of this manuscript.

I take the opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to Dr. N. P. Singh, Principal, Meerut College Meerut, for his help and encouragement during the course of the study.

I also thanks to Dr. H. P. Singh, Reader & Head, and all the staff members of the Department of Economics, Meerut College Meerut, for valuable suggestions, supervision, constructive criticism and all kinds of help rendered whenever needed throughout the study.

I wish to place on record my deep sense of gratitude and highest veneration to Dr. S. B. S. Parihar, for highly valuable encouragement and constructive criticism during the present investigations. His able guidance, keen interest and high caliber have always been a great source of inspiration to me.

The librarian of Meerut college, Meerut; Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi; Rattan Tata Library, New Delhi; Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi and Ch. Charan Singh University Deputy...
Librarian Mr. J.A. Siddiqui and other staff members of the Library are also gratefully thanked for their courtesy shown to me.

I must extend my heartiest thanks to my loving and adorable husband, **Dr. Anil Kumar** for extending his valuable co-operation, guidance, constructive and creative criticism, perpetual and prolific encouragement during every phase of this study and also a “thanks” to my sweetest Davansh (son), Abhishekh, Astha, Harshit, Sanchit, Yash and Vishu (all Nephews & Nieces) who have shown their innocent smiles whenever I feel tied with odds of research work. In this task, he proved a source of love and inspiration.

I am in the debt of my parents **Sh. S. C. Rajauria** and **Smt. Sudha** and in laws **Sh. D. V. Singh** and **Smt. Kamlesh** for their blessings and affection that have been a regular source for better my education and cultivating in me the urge for higher education. I also express my sincere thanks to my all sisters, brothers and in-laws for their help, love and affection and cultivating in me the urge for higher education.

I do not afford to forget solemn cooperation and constructive suggestions my colleagues, friends and all my relatives who helped me in completing this work.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not convey my thanks to all the BDOs, VDOs, members of self help groups, NGOs and others who helped me directly or indirectly during the work.