ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author places his heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to his guides Dr. R. Senthil, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering Anna University Chennai, and Dr. S. Arul Jayachandran, Scientist, SERC for their valuable guidance and encouragement throughout the period of research work.

The author is grateful to Dr. D. S. Ramachandramurthy, Retd. Director-Grade Scientist of SERC, Dr. N. Subramanian, Managing Director, CDC, Chennai, Dr. A. R. Santhakumar, former Professor, Anna University, Chennai and Dr. S.L. Narasimhan, professor, Kumaraguru College of Tech., Coimbatore for their suggestions and supports during the Ph.D work.

The author is grateful to Dr. Nagesh R Iyer, Director of Structural Engineering Research Centre, Chennai, for granting approval for pursuing the Doctoral research work, encouragement. The author would like to acknowledge Dr. S. Arunachalam, Advisor Management, SERC, Dr. P. Sivakumar, project leader for theirs encouragement and support. The author expresses his thanks to Dr. K. Karunakaran, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering for his constant support and encouragement. The author acknowledges all the faculty members at Structural Engineering Division, Anna University, Chennai, Mr. R. Ravichandran and Mr. R. Manisekar, SERC, Chennai, All the staff members from the research section, Anna University and Mrs. L. Umashankari from MNMJE college Chennai for their support during the course Doctoral Work. The author expresses his sincere thanks to everyone who are directly and indirectly helped for his Ph.D work.

K. N. LAKSHMIKANDHAN