ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been my long desire to do research. Practical difficulties and lack of facilities, including the non-availability of suitable persons to supervise, would have almost killed my desire if I had not met Dr. K.C. Bhattacharyya of the Department of Chemistry, Gauhati University sometime in 1987 by courtesy of Dr. K.C. Bayan, one of my colleagues at M.C. College, Barpeta. Dr. Bhattacharyya helped and encouraged me throughout this investigation without which the completion of this work would have been impossible. I express my most sincere indebtedness to Dr. Bhattacharyya.

I am grateful to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for the award of a Teacher Fellowship for three years and to the authorities of M.C. College, Barpeta for allowing me leave for the period.

I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to successive heads of the Department of Chemistry, Gauhati University, Prof.(Mrs.) A. Chaudhuri, Prof. P.K. Sarma and Prof. N.K. Baishya for kind permission to use the laboratory facilities and constant encouragement. I owe thanks to Prof. H.K. Das and also other members of staff of the Department who have been all the time urging me to complete the work.

I acknowledge with gratitude the kind help from Dr. D.T. Khathing Head, Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre, Shillong in AAS measurements with a nominal cost. Dr. A.C. Patowary, the then head, Department of Social and Preventive medicine, Gauhati Medical College allowed me to have some initial training in microbiological examination of water and Sri Anjan Das, scientific assistant of the Department demonstrated the actual techniques to me. I express my thanks to both.
I express my indebtedness to late H.N. Das, the then Principal, M.C. College for his encouragement to take up this work. My gratitude is also equally due to the present Principal, Shri A.C. Das for his goodwill and help during the finishing stages of the work.

This work would not have been possible if I have not received full encouragement and cooperation from my near and dear ones. I am particularly indebted to my eldest brother Sri Yugal Kishor Srivastava for infusing into me a desire to enhance knowledge. My wife, Shri Leela Srivastava tackled the family front with courage and wisdom during these years allowing me to concentrate on my work. All my children, Varshnaya, Kumari Seema, Sandeep and Aranya Prakash, extended a helping hand of understanding and shared my problems and difficulties. I am overwhelmed with their support and record my sincere appreciation.

Sri Kailash Chandra Talukdar, JRF, Department of MIL, Gauhati University extended invaluable help in preparing the figures for the thesis. I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Sri Talukdar.

Last but not the least, Sri Khagen Kalita typed the thesis almost in a non-stop manner and with great efficiency. I acknowledge his services with gratitude.

(PREM CHANDRA LAL)
Head, Department of Chemistry, M.C. College, DARPETA.

6/11/92