ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge with a deep sense of gratitude to my revered teacher Dr. R.S. Sethi, but for whose inspiration and encouragement it may not have been possible to undertake this task. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the constant inspiration provided by my Co-Guide Prof. R. Mitra, throughout the course of the present study. I am also greatly indebted to Prof. R. Kumar, for putting his profound knowledge and practical experience regarding the intricacies in the work. I am at a loss of words to express my gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) S. Longia, who initiated me into this field.

I am thankful to Dr. A. Kaushik for his valuable suggestion and advice to shape the study. I am greatly thankful to Dr. B.L. Verma and Mr. B.D. Mathur, for their help and guidance in solving the statistical problems in the study.

My thanks are also due to my friends and well wishers, naming whom won't be possible, who unsolicitingly gave such help as was sought from them. It would be callous on my part not to mention Mr. K.M. Thomas, for devoting his valuable time in typing this thesis. Finally, I can only humbly beg forgiveness from those whom I haven't mentioned.


( RAJEEV SHARMA )