ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the preparation of this study, I have had the valuable guidance, help and encouragement from various quarters. First and foremost I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. R. R. Sharma, who is himself an authority on Soviet Central Asia, for his scholarly guidance and cooperation in various ways to facilitate my study.

My thanks are also due to Prof. Zafar Imam, Centre for Soviet and East European Studies, Prof. Devendra Kaushik, Dr. Shams-ud-din, Associate Professor and Dr. Shashi Kant Jha, Associate Professor. I would like to express my thanks to Dr. Tulsiram from whom I received immense assistance and valuable advice during my discussions.

I am also thankful to Dr. Ajay Kumar Patnaik with whom I had a meaningful discussion on the topic of my research.

I am thankful to the Indian Council of Social Science Research for providing me the doctoral fellowship.

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance rendered to me by the staff of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Library and the Indian Council of World Affairs Library at Sapru House, New Delhi.
I shall be failing in my duty if I do not thank my family members with whom I received constant care, affection and encouragement during the long period of my research work.

I am also grateful to my friends Pulin, Jhansi, Kavita, Sudha, Pramodita, Tasneem, Vimla, Apala, Namita, Shobha and Amu who made my research work less tiresome by their company and association. I, finally record my thanks to Mr. Jagdish Chander Vidyarthi for the help extended to me in getting the manuscript typed. Needless to say that I am fully responsible for the views and conclusions expressed in the thesis.

( SHAHNIZ BANO )