Acknowledgement

I am very much grateful to my supervisor, Dr. P. Sahadevan, for his meticulous and constructive supervision in my doctoral work. His constant persuasion and guidance and healthy criticism encouraged a lot to complete the present research. His inspiration led me carry out a new theme of research on Minority Ethnic Parties, with a special reference to origin and growth of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress. It has given me an extremely interesting excise not only to understand about the origin and growth of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress but also changing dynamic of Muslim politics in Sri Lanka. He read my drafts persistently and gave invaluable suggestions in shaping up my thesis. Further, he immensely encouraged me throughout my stay in Jawaharlal Nehru University, even when I faced severe disruptions due to my personal difficulties. I feel greatly pleased and proud of being a scholar under his supervision in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Several leaders spent their valuable time with me, to share their experience on origin and growth of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress. Rauff Hakeem, (MP, Leader, SLMC), Mrs. Ferial Ashraff, (MP, Leader, NUA), Hasan Ali, (MP, Secretary, SLMC), Bazeer Sehu Dawood, (MP, SLMC), Hisbullah, (Former MP, NUA), Segu Izzadeen, (MP, NUA), P.P. Devaraj, (Former MP, CWC), S.L.M. Hanifa, (Former MPC, SLMC), Ahmed Lebbe, (Former Chairmen, PS, Kathankudy) M.S.M. Nazeer (Former Vice Chairmen, PS, Eravur) M. M. M. Sakoor (Former Member, PS, Eravur) are some among the many. I must express my gratitude to all of them for their cordial cooperation and for having answered my interview questions with frankness.

Among the Academic community in Sri Lanka, I am very much grateful to Professor S.W, Sirisena, Former Dean, and Faculty of Arts, who had help me to get the financial Assistance help from the University of Peradeniya to enroll in Ph. D Programme in Jawaharlal Nehru University. Professor, Gamini Samaranayake, Former Head, Department of Political Science, University of Peradeniya, and present Vice Chancellor, Rajarata University was always inspired me in my academic carrier. Professor, Ranjith Amarasinghe, (Dean, Faculty of Arts), Prof. Navaratne Bandara, (Department of Political Science), Professor. A. Sivarajah, (Department of Political
Science), Dr. S.H. Hasbullah, (Department of Geography), Professor. M.A. Nuhuman, (Department of Tamil) University of Peradeniya. Professor, J. Uyangoda, Department of Political Science, University of Colombo, Professor. K.M. De Silva (Emeritus Professor), Director, International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Kandy, earnestly helped me and spent their valuable time by discussing with me about the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and the present Muslim situation in ongoing peace talks. For me, these discussions were enlightening. I am ever thankful to all of them.

I am indebted to the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University for providing me grants, which enabled me to undertake filed studies in Sri Lanka to collect the relevant data.

I would like to thank the staff of University of Peradeniya Library, Peradeniya, Jawaharlal Nehru University Library and Nehru Memorial Library in New Delhi.

I am thankful to my friends in the Jawaharlal Nehru University who helped me in many ways to peruse my research. I sincerely express my gratitude to Dr. Nilay Ranjan, Dr. Shatadru Chattopadhayay, Mr. V. V. Rajesh, Arun Prasanth, and S. Pandiaraj, who encouraged me from the very beginning, tremendously at almost every step of my academic life.

This work would not have been a reality without the moral support of my daughter Fathima Sumiya and son Athil Ahamed. I would like to thanks them sincerely, for being bearing the absence of their father for a long time period. My heartfelt thanks should go to my beloved brother late Abdul Waheed, who supported me financially and morally, but unable to see fruitfulness of his efforts.

VELLAITHAMBY AMEERDEEN