ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author is highly indebted to Dr. N S Das, Professor and Head of Mechanical Engineering, Regional Engineering College, Rourkela for his excellent guidance, helpful suggestion and constant supervision at all stages of this investigation. The author also expresses a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. T. N. Subramanyam, ex-Professor, department of Mechanical Engineering, Regional Engineering College, for his constant encouragement, inspiration and valuable suggestion during the course of work. The author also wishes to express his gratitude to Dr. L. Nayak, Dr. A. K. Behera, Dr. P. K. Kar and all faculties and other staff-members of Mechanical Engineering Department for their constant encouragement and moral support.

The author expresses his gratitude to Dr. A. K. Mohanty, Principal, Regional Engineering College, Rourkela for giving permission to use the facilities available in the college for this study.

The author also expresses his thankfulness to Prof. R. N. Daschoudhury, System-manager, computer-center, Regional Engineering College, Rourkela for providing facilities to do the computational work for this research work.

The author also expresses his gratitude to Mr. U. K. Mohanty, Asst-Professor, workshop providing facility for experimental work. His special thanks are due to Mr. Lambodhar Sahu, ex-mechanic grade-I, Mr. C K P Nanda, Mechanic Grade I, Mr. M. Nanda, Mechanic Grade-I, Mr. Ali, Mechanic Grade-II and other staff of machine shop for assistance in experimental work. The author also wishes to express his gratitude to his PG students for extending their help while carrying out experimental investigation.

Author is also indebted to his mother, parents-in-law and other near and dear ones for their blessing to carry out this work.

Lastly I thank my wife, Smt. Pragati Das and sons Bunty and Bitun for their constant encouragement and for many sacrifices they endured during the currency of the work.

(K P Maity)