ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It has been a wonderful and very enriching journey for me. In due course of my research I have interacted with a number of people. They all have been very supportive and took keen interest in my research progress. I offer my heartiest thanks to all of them.

Above all, I wish to thank my supervisor Prof. P. K. Datta. He has been a constant support to me and without his able guidance it would not have been possible to complete my PhD work in time and in this form. He had not only enriched my understanding of the issue involved in this research with his extremely important and apt suggestions and comments but also checked every draft with great patience. I am greatly indebted to him.

I am thankful to my advisors Aditya Nigam (Centre for the Study of Developing Society, Delhi) and Veena Naregal (Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi). They have always enriched my thinking with their critical suggestions and feedbacks. They did always find time for me whenever I approached them and took keen interest in my research progress.

I am also thankful to Prof. Nivedita Menon, (Centre for Political Theory, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi) and Ravikant (Centre for the Study of Developing Society, Delhi) for their interest in my research work. Prof. Menon has always enlightened me with her critical remarks on my research proposal, helped me in formulating research questions, preparation for field visit and research questionnaire. Ravikant too helped me in various ways not only with his critical comments but also at many times he suggested some important works relevant to my research topic. I am greatly indebted to both of them.

At different points I discussed my research progress with Prof. Ujjwal Kumar Singh, Prof. Bidyut Chakrabarty, Dr. Madhulika Banerjee, Dr. Satyajit Singh, Dr. Ashok Acharya, Dr. N. Sukumar, Dr. Saroj Giri, Dr. Mollica Dastidar, Dr. Rajesh Dev, Dr. Sohini Guha and Dr. Devika Sharma in the Department of Political Science,
University of Delhi. I sincerely thank all of them for their comments, feedbacks and suggestions.

I am grateful to Prof. Paul R. Brass for giving me an opportunity to discuss with him my research work. I have also benefited from the valuable suggestions of Prof. Hetukar Jha, Prof. Uday Narayan Singh, Prof. Bhim Nath Jha, Amarnath Jha ‘Bakshi’ and Sadan Jha. I sincerely thank all of them for their interests in my work and cooperation.

I am thankful to my dearest friend Meenakshi Gogoi. She has been a great support over the years and has always encouraged me to undertake my task more earnestly. She has also helped me in the proofreading for some of the chapters. I am also thankful to Ashok Dansana with whom I shared light and difficult moments of research. I thank Lalit for his support at different stages of my work and helping me in translating many paragraphs from Maithili to English. I am also thankful to my seniors Kamal Nayan Chaube, Indrajeet Jha, Anurag Pandey, Awanish Kumar, Pankaj Kumar Jha, Narrotam Vinit, Vinit Kumar, Neeraj Mishra. They have always supported me. Particularly, Kamal Nayan Chaube has been a great support with his critical suggestions and feedbacks. I am also very thankful to my friends – Amit Kumar Sharma, Sushant Kumar Verma, Virendra Kumar, Chakravarti Mahajan, Chhatrapal, Anusha Singh, Santana Khanikar, Subarta, Amya, Neelam, Avantika, Rinki, Devarati, Shivali, Vikramaditya, Kunal, Smriti, Kapil, Animesh Mohapatra, Narendra, Digvijoy, Faizal, Awadhesh, Sandeep, Heemanshu and others. I always cherish their friendship. I warmly thank all of them.

I am thankful to the University of Delhi for granting me the University Teaching Assistantship (UTA) that gave me the opportunity to teach in the Department of Political Science. I am also grateful to the University Grant Commission for awarding me Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) during the course of my PhD.

I am also thankful to Charles Wallace India Trust (CWIT) and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi for providing me the scholarship to visit London for a short time in Aug – Sept, 2012. It gave me the opportunity to
consult India Office Records Library at British Library, United Kingdom, which proved to be a great help for my research. It also gave me an opportunity to interact with eminent academicians like – Prof. Peter Robb, Francesca Orsini, Eleanor Newbegin, Rochna Vajpayee, Shabnum Tejani, Aishwarj Kumar and Rakesh Nautiyal. I sincerely thank all of them for their valuable inputs. My stay at Indian YMCA Hostel, Fitzroy Square, London was very pleasant. The company of my friends like Abhishek Sarkar, Amitva Chatterjee, Rakesh Nautiyal, Mehar Tej Ravula and Ghosh was wonderful during my stay in London. I thank them all.

For the collection of materials, I have visited the following libraries – Raj Post Graduate Research Library, Darbhanga; Central Reference Library, Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga; P. G. Department of Maithili Library, Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga; Kalyani Foundation, Darbhanga; Mithila Research Institute, Kabraghat, Darbhanga; Central Reference Library, Maharaja Kameshwar Singh Sanskrit University, Darbhanga; Bihar State Archive, Patna; K. P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna; Bihar Rashtra Bhasha Parishad, Patna; A. N. Sinha Research Institute, Patna; National Library, Kolkata; National Archive of India, Delhi; Parliament Library, Parliament House Delhi; Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti House, Delhi; Centre for the Studies of Developing Societies (CSDS) Library, Delhi; Sahitya Akademi Library, Delhi; Ratan Tata Library, University of Delhi; Central Reference Library, University of Delhi; South Campus Library, University of Delhi; D. S. A. Library, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi; British Library, United Kingdom; and Cambridge University Library, Cambridge, United Kingdom. I am thankful to the librarian and the staff members for their cooperation.

Last but not the least; I owe my gratitude to my parents Shrimati Karpura Devi and Shri Ramanath Jha. Their constant support and confidence in me has always encouraged me to undertake my task more sincerely. They have been a great source of strength to me as well as provided me with the space to think freely and confidently.

Mithilesh Kumar Jha