ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is extremely indebted to his research supervisor Prof. P. Ramasamy, Dean (Research), SSN College of Engineering, Kalavakkam, Chennai, for his inspiring guidance, unlimited encouragement, passionate support, soaring scientific proficiency and profuse personal interest to carry out the present investigation.

The author expresses his gratefulness to SSN Institutions for providing Junior Research fellowship during this investigation. The author is thankful to Dr. S. Ganesamoorthy, Mr. S.K. Sharma and Mrs. S. Rachana Scientists, Laser Materials Development and Device Division, RRCAT, Indore, for their fruitful advice and constant encouragement. The author is grateful to Dr. G. Bhagavannarayana and Dr. N. Vijayan, Scientists, NPL, New Delhi, Prof. Kishan Rao Department of Physics, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Dr. C.K. Mahadevan, Department of Physics, S.T Hindu College, Nagercoil who helped me for characterization studies.

I express my profound gratitude to Dr. M. Arivanandhan, Dr. R Rameshbabu, Dr. J. Ramajothi, Dr. N. Balamurugan, Dr. M. Lenin and all the research scholars of Centre for Crystal Growth, SSN College of Engineering, Chennai for their co-operation in every moment of this work. The author thanks Mr. S. Singaravadivelu, Department of Physics, SSN College of Engineering for valid suggestions of this investigation. The author deeply expresses his heartfelt thanks to his family members, for all care and affection shown.

S. BALAMURUGAN