ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I, take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. P.K. Kathal, Reader, Department of Applied Geology, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar (M.P.), for his valuable guidance and constant encouragement throughout my research work. His readiness to help and openness to discussions greatly helped me in completing this work. This thesis would not have taken the present shape without his kind co-operation.

I am grateful to hon'ble chairman of S.S.V.P.S'. Late B.S.R. Deore College of Engineering Dhule (Maharashtra), Dada Saheb Subhash S. Deore for his kind assent.

I am extremely thankful to Prof. V.S. Shah, Principal S.S.V.P.S'. Late B.S.R. Deore College of Engineering, Dhule for giving me the time to complete this work.

I am also thankful to Prof. S.N. Pandey, the Head, Department of Applied Geology, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar (M.P.), for allowing me to use the Departmental facilities.

I am thankful to Dr. R.K. Puri, Head, University Science Instrumentation Centre (USIC), Shivaji University Kolhapur (Maharashtra), who carried out the chemical analysis on AAS.

I warmly acknowledge the unreserved help rendered by my friends S.K. Pandey, Mahendra Jain, and Prof. M.M. Rathore, at various stages of the work.

I am fortunate to be showered upon with kindness by various people who have helped me in the field, collecting samples, and conveyance. The hospitality offered to me in the remotest places by various people will be remembered forever.

I am thankful to all those people who helped directly or indirectly at various stages of the work, whose name is inadvertently missed here.

( Ram Narayan Sahu )