DECLARATION

The work presented in the thesis has been carried out by me under the guidance of Dr. A.K. Ganguly, Director, Chemical Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay. The conclusive contents of the thesis are original, derived from studies conducted by me.

Certain portions of the thesis (cf. sec. 7.1a and sec. 9.2) are parts of already published works coauthored by my supervisor/junior colleague (nos. 2 and 21 in the separate list of my Publications). The experiments of these sections were designed and the results interpreted entirely by me; the help rendered by the coauthors in these experiments is acknowledged with gratitude here.

The work reported in the thesis had not been submitted in part or in full for any degree or diploma of any other University.

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