INTRODUCTION
Within a short time of the establishment of Ghaznavid rule in Iran, the north Western part of India formed a part of the dominion of the Ghaznavid empire with the obvious result that a number of Persian emigrant settled in this fertile land. These new settlers brought with them the literary traditions and culture from their land and propagated them in this part with vigour and success. The result was that gradually the Indians became familiar with Persian literary and cultural traditions.

During the later Ghaznavid period, on Bahram Shah's fleeing to India under the pressure of the Ghorids and remaining here for some time and on his son's and grandson's establishing their capitals at Lahore, the latter town became a great seat of learning and culture. With the ascendency of the Ghorids two important centres, one at Lahore, the other at Multan and Uchch were established. Simultaneously the Ghorid Chieftan outbud-Din Aibek succeeded in establishing the Muslim rule in Indian with its capital at Delhi. While another Turkish general Mohammad Bakhtyar Khalji carried his successful campaigns in the north eastern part of India and paved the way for the propagation of Turko-Persian culture in that remote Indian corner.

The early part of the Indo-Persian literature is characterised by a galaxy of Persian poets and writers the most outstanding of whom are Abul Faraj Runi, Masud-i-Sad Salman and Ali Hujwairi, the author of Kashful Mahjub, the first Persian work on Tasawwuf. But the period
extending from the death of Masud-i-Sad (in 1121 A.D.) to the close of the slave dynasty (in 1290) in so much as no poetical collection with the name is known to survive. This is no doubt due to the relentless hand of time; but want of serious efforts and apathy in this direction is equally responsible for this sad state of affairs. Professor Nazir Ahmad's recent researches in this field have borne fruitful results, for he has succeeded in discovering not only the complete poetical writings of Sirajud-Din Khurasani, a poet of the latter half of the 12th and 1st quarter of the 13th century, but also scattered poetical compositions of a number of 13th-century Persian poets. I was sure that serious investigation in this field and effective steps towards digging out hidden literary treasures would meet with conspicuous success. This was why I decided to collect Persian verses scattered all over catalogued and uncatalogued anthologies, historical works, biographies of poets, lexicons and other works. I was fully aware of the vastness of the subject but relying on the able guidance of my supervisor and the blessings of the Department of Persian of the Aligarh Muslim University, I started my work and during the last four years of my research I visited various libraries in India such as Oriental Public Library, Bankipur Patna, Tagore Library, Lucknow, Oriental Mss. Library, Madras University, and others and collected material for my thesis. The most important sources for the thesis are the following books:

Awfi : Lubabul Albab
     Jawamiul Hikayat
Hasan-i-Nizami : Tajul Maasir
Minhaj-i-Siraj Kalati Jajarmi: Tabagat-i-Nasiri
Munisul Ahrar
Bihamid Khani: Tarikh-i-Muhammad
Saif Jam Herawi: Majmaul Lataif
Taqi Kash: Khulasatul-Ashar
Taqi Auhadi: Arafat-i-Ashiqin
Badaoni: Muntakhabut-Tawarikh
Hidayat: Majmaul Fusaha
Husain Inju: Farhang-i-Jahangiri
Sururi: Majmaul Furs.

The special features of the thesis may be summed up as follows:

1. Some new poets have been discovered such as Muntajibud-Din Asir and Kausi.

2. Adequate poems and verses of some poets have been collected in this thesis. About one thousand verses of a single poet viz: Amid-Tulaki have been discovered and included in the thesis. The other poets whose sufficient poems have been made available are Hasan-i-Nizami, Muhammad Awfi, Taj Riza, Shihab Mehmara.

3. Sufficient additions have been made to the available verses of the following poets:


4. Some confusion about the life or writings of a few poets have been removed such as Ata b. Yaqub, Mahmud Khattat and Ali Kufi.

5. Some poets of the 13th century briefly introduced by an article in the Yazdani Commemoration Volume have been fully studied and their poems and verses have been made available in the present study.
6. Poems and verses collected from printed books have been compared with those available in Mss. For example the unique Ms. of the Lubab ul-Albab available in the Tagore Library, Lucknow University has been used in comparing the verses from the printed edition of the Lubab. But the Lucknow Ms. is so defective and erroneous that no substantial improvement has been made in the text.

7. In most cases verses available in a particular book has been compared and checked with those in other type of books. For example, the poems quoted by Badaoni have been compared with those available in the Munisul Ahrar, Arafat-i-Ashiqin, Majmoul Fusaha and others.

8. Awfi's verses have been selected from the Lubab and Jawami-ul-Hikayat. Of the latter book only three Mss were available to me and all of them were full of mistakes. Even the Old Ms. of the Bankipur library is not free from errors with the obvious result that some verses still remained to be deciphered and corrected.

9. A short biography of each poet has been added which precedes the available poems and verses.

Despite all the care it has not been possible at times to correct the verses for want of adequate material. There still remains a huge number of books specially anthologies which could not be studied for want of adequate facilities for which I should be excused for a research scholar like me has her own limitations.

I would be failing in my duty if I would not offer my sincere thanks to the U.G.C. for awarding me a Junior Fellowship, the Deptt. of Persian for providing facilities, the Maulana Azad library for acquiring for me
useful material from other libraries specially for the most useful Majmu'ā-i-Lataif from the Kabul University, the authorities of Bankipur library, Tagore Library, Madras library. I am thankful to my teacher and supervisor Dr. M.S. Israel who has been so helpful throughout all these years.