ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The research work "Characterization and utilization of coal fly ash" is the result of an endeavor which has been made possible by the deep interest of my teacher Dr. Arabinda K. Das, Professor of Chemistry, the University of Burdwan. It is therefore a great pleasure for me to pay homage to my teacher cum preceptor Dr. Das, whose constant encouragement, guidance, untiring perseverance, devotion, depth of knowledge, infinite patience, fascinating insight, unstinting support, necessary advice, warming, soft words and smiling behaviour boosted me a lot throughout the period of the work. I am indebted and grateful to him for suggestions and criticisms during the work.

I pay my grateful respects to Prof. P. Ghosal, Head, Prof. G.S. De, Prof. S. Basu, Prof. S. Bagchi, Prof. A. Mukherjee, Prof. S. Thakur, Dr. D. Mukherjee, Dr. D. Pal, Dr. C. Sinha, Dr. B.K. Ghosh, Dr. S.K. Chandra and Dr. P. Chattopadhyay of this department for their help in various ways.

I am thankful to NTPC, Farakka for necessary permission and facilities so that I may come out successfully with flying colours from my research work in the days to come. I am grateful to the General Manager (NTPC, Farakka), Additional General Manager (O&M), Dy. General Manager (O&M), Sr. Managers (O&M/Chem.) and other employees of NTPC, Farakka. I am specially thankful to Sh. Samiron Sinha Roy, Manager (O&M/Chem.) for extending his helping hand at Farakka in various ways.

I am indebted to all the staff members of this department for their help in various ways. I express my gratitude for necessary help rendered by researchers of this department. I am specially thankful to Dr. B. C. Mondal and Ms. S. Dutta of our research group for their constant help during my work. My sincere thanks are cordially extended to Dr. R. Das (Chakraborty) for her encouragement and cooperation which helped me a lot to carry out my research work in these hard days.
Thanks are due to Burdwan University for providing me necessary infrastructure and facilities to carry out the research work. Sincere thanks are due to Dr. D. K. Das, G.S.I., Kolkata for providing some gift samples.

I am grateful to Prof. M. de la Guardia, Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Valencia (Spain) for ICPMS analysis and Prof. R. Rubio, Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Barcelona (Spain) for HG-ICPOES analysis in their laboratories.

Last but not the least I owe debts of gratitude and respect to my parents, sisters, wife, brother-in-laws and relatives who have tried to teach "the deaf to speak and enabled the listening ear to hear speech from the Atlantic to the Rockies".

Department of Chemistry
Burdwan University
Burdwan-713104, India

(Debasis Goswami)