The services of banking sector is the key in the development of economy. The banker, with provision of services to the economic activities, provides the necessary fill-up to economy. In brief, banking is a sheer economic instrument. To drive away poverty and to generate employment, there was a need for socialization of credit. This called for social control over commercial banks and, later, nationalisation of commercial banks. On the eve of nationalisation, the functional style of Indian Bank was termed thus: Finance follows where enterprise leads. After nationalisation, many measures as well as many programmes have been initiated for efficient functioning of banking system. Time has come to examine the operational performance of the commercial banks as they have completed 24 years of nationalisation.

The credit for my research work, I owe to my Research Supervisor, Prof. C.R. Reddy, Head, Department of Commerce, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, for his keen interest in my work. Without his active cooperation, I could not have ventured to take up this Research.
I am grateful to (Late) Prof. T. Subbi Reddy and other esteemed staff members of the Department of Commerce for their encouragement.

I am grateful to Dr. (Smt.) Padmavathi, wife of my beloved distinguished Professor C.R. Reddy; and Chi, Ravali and Lahari for their magnanimity showed when they were deprived of their father's affectionate bearing patiently all the inconveniences caused by my several calls at my guide's house.

I thank the authorities of S.K. University for providing the facilities to complete my research work.

The blessings of my grandfather Sri. J. Moses, go a long way in my work. I owe my gratitude to my parents, Sri. J. Sudharshanam and Smt. Vedamma who continue to motivate in my academic career. The support of my brothers Mr. J. Raja Rao and J. Sudheer Kumar and my aunt Mrs. R. Emily is unforgetted.

I am indebted to my beloved friends A. Emmanuel, V. Charles Ravi Kumar, M. Ramesh (Chinna Babu) and J. Madhu (Hadlee).

I express my thanks to my room-mates, B. Raju and P. Anand Babu, my fellow scholars R. Ayyanna, B. Samuel, G. C. Shekanna and E. Ranganna who stood by me with their cooperation.
My sincere thanks to Sri. C. Rama Mohan Rao, Chief Instructor and Sri. G. Mallikarjuna Rao, Instructor, Syndicate Bank, Anantapur, for all their cooperation.

My co-research scholar, Mrs. Emily Nirmala Kumari and Mr. & Mrs. Zakaraiah, R.S.I. deserve my thanks for their encouragement.

I thank Sri. A. Hiriyannaiah, Retired Lecturer, for his constructive suggestions and Sri. P. Lokanna, for his neat typing.

J. VIJAYA KUMAR