ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is fortunate to have Dr. Bh. Nagabhushana Rao, Professor and Head, Structural Engineering Division, Anna University, as his Research Supervisor and Guide. The author expresses his deep sense of gratitude for his valuable advice, constant support and encouragement.

The author is indebted to Dr. Koshy Varghese, Professor, Building Technology Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras for his expert comments and suggestions given during periodic Committee Meetings. The author wishes to thank Dr. P.K. Joy, Chairman, Green World Consultants, Chennai, for his advice and suggestions. The author expresses his thanks to Dr. D.S.N. Iyyar, Director General (Retd.), Border Roads Organisation for his valuable support and encouragement. The author is very much thankful to Dr. G.M. Samuel Knight, Professor of Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering Division, Anna University, for his inspiration and advice.

The author also thanks Teaching Research Associates of Structural Engineering Division for their constant encouragement and support. The author is also indebted to students of Department of Civil Engineering for their help and cooperation.

The author could not have completed this work without the support of his parents and friends for their understanding and co-operation while doing the research work.

C. ARUN