ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to express his sincere gratitude and thanks to many persons whose co-operation and assistance have made this investigation possible. In particular the gratitude and thanks are expressed to:

The Chairman of Jyoti Limited, Vadodara and the Vice Chancellor of Sardar Patel University, Vallabhvidyanagar for giving him permission to do this investigation under the external registration scheme.

Mr. J.S. Nagi, Chief Executive, Jyoti Limited, Vadodara for his constant encouragement and keen interest in the project.

Dr. C.S. Shah, Prof. and Head (Retd.) Department of Mechanical Engineering, Birla Viswakarma Mahavidyalaya, Sardar Patel University, Vallabhvidyanagar for his valuable guidance and suggestions conducive to the investigations and preparation of this thesis.

Prof. K.M. Dholkia, Principal, Birla Vishwakarma Mahavidyalaya, Vallabhvidyanagar for his encouragement and kind co-operation in the Project.
Mr. D.K. Arora, Chief Hydraulic (R&D), Jyoti Limited, Vadodara, for his kind co-operation and valuable help during these investigations.

Mr. M.S. Konnur, Senior Product Development Manager, R & D Centre, Jyoti Limited, Vadodara for his valuable help and discussion from time to time.

Mrs. Manjula Patel for her selfless forbearance and whole hearted support during these investigations.

- D.P. FATEL