ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the outset, I express my deep sense of gratitude for the support and encouragement received from Prof. Naresh Kochhar, who acted as research supervisor and philosopher who taught me how to think as a geologist. He suggested this problem and guided me in the field, in laboratory work, processing of data, writing of thesis and critically went through the manuscript, for which I will always remain indebted to him.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Sushil Mittal, Joint Director (Hydrogeology) Retd., Department of Agriculture, Punjab, my co-supervisor, who was very supportive throughout the research work.

Thanks are due to the Chairman of Department of Geology, Punjab University Prof. Ravinder Kumar for providing laboratory and library facilities to me and also to Dr. (Mrs.) Veena Dadwal for helping me in carrying out chemical analysis of water samples in department’s chemical laboratory.

No words can adequately express the debt I owe to Dr. B.K. Handa Retd. Superintendent Chemist, C.G.W.B., for his suggestions and advice for the interpretation of chemical data. Thanks are also due to all my teachers in the Geology Department for their love and useful advice from time to time.

I received also the unlimited support from my colleagues and friends Dr. Sandeep Singh, Mrs. Suman, Mr. Ashok Kumar, S. Tara Singh, Sh. R.C. Juneja and Mrs. Savita Thakur as well as technical support from Sh. S.K. Tandon, Sh. K.K. Goel and Sh. V.K. Soni, Er. B.R. Goel, Sh. P. Dass, Er. J. D. Bansal.

This work would not have been completed without the blessings and prayers of my parents and constant encouragement and moral support of my sister Mrs. Renu Bala and Brother-in-law Sh. Jatinder Kumar. Words fail to express my thanks to all of them for all the things they have done for me.

I wish to record my deep sense of thankfulness to my best friend and main supporter during the entire Ph.D. work, fortunately who happens to be my wife Indu and who stood me in thick and thin all the time right from the beginning of this work till this moment and to my little lovely son, Manan.

Arun Kumar
(Arun Kumar) 22/12/06