ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to his Prof. G. Prabhakar of Department of Chemical Engineering, S.V. University, Tirupati for his constant encouragement during this work. The author expresses his deep sense of gratitude to his Prof. P. Venkateswarlu, Chairman, Board of Studies in Chemical Engineering, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam for suggesting this field of research and offering his valuable suggestions at every stage of this work. The useful discussions he had with his both guides helped him very much in compiling this thesis work with confidence and success.

The author is grateful to the authorities of Andhra University / SV University, for according permission and providing facilities to carry out the research work in the Laboratories of Department of Chemical Engineering. Also he expresses his sincere thanks to all the faculty of Chemical Engineering, Andhra University.

His heartful thanks to Prof. A. Prabhakar, Head of the Department and the support provided by all the faculty members of the Department of Chemical Engineering of S.V. University is gratefully acknowledged.

The author sincerely thanks the management of GVP College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam for liberally providing leave for carrying out his research work. The author thanks all his colleagues in the Department of Chemical Engineering,
GVPCOE for their cooperation. The author wishes to thank all the faculty of the Department of Chemical Engineering for their timely help. Special thanks to Prof. C. Bhaskara Sarma, Principal, GVPCOEW, Visakhapatnam.

His warmest thanks are also due to all his friends Dr K.V.Ramesh, Dr. G.M.J.Raju, Dr. B.Srinivas, Dr.G.V.S. Sarma, K. Ravindra Kumar, S.Mohan Kumar and V.Srinivas for rendering their help during the course of this work and their continuous assistance during experimentation.

The help rendered by Sri M. Murali Krishna and Sri L. Raju (GVPCOE) during experimentation and editing the manuscript is highly acknowledged. Finally, the support rendered to him by his members of the family is highly appreciated.

M.S.N.MURTY