ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, let me express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. P. Ibrahim, Head of the Department of Economics, Pondicherry University, Mahe Centre my respectable teacher and research guide, for his sincere, dedicated, and invaluable support extended for the completion of this research work.

I also extend my sincere thanks to Dr. P. S. Chandramohan Nair, Asst Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, Thiruvanandapuram, who acted as a co-guide for this research work, and has been a source of inspiration.

Shri S. B. K. Menon, the then Chief Engineer, Kerala State Electricity Board granted me permission to do the research work on the techno-economic aspects of the state power system, and thus I was furnished with the details and statistics of the state power system. My heart felt and most humble thanks are due to him and his colleagues for having given me all sorts of help. I also remember with thanks the support and co-operation rendered by Dr. G. Pavithran, Executive Engineer, [Planning] Office of the Chief Engineer, Kerala State Electricity Board, Thiruvanandapuram.

I am particularly thankful to the Director of Collegiate Education, Thiruvanandapuram, for having granted me permission to do Ph. D. (Part-time) in Pondicherry University, Mahe Centre.

I have received a good deal of intellectual input from energy experts like, Dr. R. V. G. Menon, Director, Integrated Rural Technology Centre, Palakkad, Prof. V. K. Damodaran, Director, Energy Management Centre, Thiruvanandapuram, Dr. M. K. Radhakrishnan, former Principal Govt. College of Engineering, Kannur.
I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to all of them. I also express my sincere gratitude to Prof K Krishnankutty, Deputy Director, Director of Technical Education's Office, who taught me some of the useful computer application packages.

Dr G Subramaniam, Professor and Head, Dept of Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Dr P P Pillai, former Professor and Head, Dept of Economics, Calicut University, D Parameshwara Sharma, Engineer, VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram, have spared their valuable time in discussing with me some of the important aspects of research work. I remember with gratitude, the help and support extended by them for the completion of this research work. My thanks are also due to Dr Surya Narayana, Faculty Member, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai.

I express my gratitude to the Fellow (DIC) Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi, for having helped me a lot in getting photocopies of the latest books and articles appeared in the national and international journals. Similarly, my sincere thanks are due to the Librarians of Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Regional Engineering College, Kozhikode, KSEB, Thiruvananthapuram Govt College of Engineering, Kannur, and International Energy Institute, Bangalore, for the ingenious service they rendered to me.

I acknowledge with thanks the help and services extended by Principal, Govt College of Engineering, Kannur, my colleagues in the collegiate education wing, and the professors and lecturers working in various engineering branches.

The help and intellectual inputs extended by Dr S Harikumar, Senior Grade Lecturer in Economics, Pondicherry University, Mahe Centre, and the full
time research scholars- Smt Vidya.K.B., (F I P) and Shameerdas.T., are acknowledged with sincere thanks. All the office staff members of Mahe Centre-Miss Srikala.C.M (Office Manager) Premin, M.P., Vijaya Raghavan K.M, and Stella Fernandez were very kind and helpful to me in various ways. I express my sincere gratitude to all of them.

In my endeavor to complete the research work, many members of Energy Conservation Society and Sastra Sahithya Parishad volunteered to extend their full co-operation. I am expressing my sincere thanks to them as well. It is quite impossible to list down the names of engineering students, staff and friends and well wishers, who have encouraged me to continue my research work even in odd situations. My most humble thanks are due to them. The help I have received from the Computer Centre, of Govt. College of Engineering, is unexplainable, and I remember with thanks the services rendered by Shri.Vinod Kumar.P., and Jayaraj T M, for editing my thesis promptly and neatly.

Above all I must mention a few personal relations without whose help this work would never have been completed. I acknowledge with full respect, the unfathomable sacrifice and encouragement received from my mother, even on her last days, my wife, Jayamala, children- Ashwathy, Revathy, and Yadu Nath and other family members who bore with remarkable fortitude my preoccupation with research.

Above all, I thank God, the Beneficent and Merciful, for enabling me to complete this work inspite of several odds. Inspite of the help received from several quarters, I am solely responsible for the errors and shortcomings that may be found in this work.