ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Vice–Chancellor of Assam University, Silchar, whose encouragement for us to embark on research enabled me to do research for Ph.D.

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and deep regards to my supervisor Dr. Sudesna Purkayastha, Associate Professor, Department of History, Assam University, Silchar for her exemplary guidance and monitoring throughout the course of this thesis. Her incisive criticism helped me to improve its quality. She has indeed been an ideal mentor for my Ph.D. study.

Acknowledgements are due to Professor Prajit Kumar Palit, Head of Department of History, Assam University, for all his helpful guidance. I thank the faculty members of the Department of History, Assam University, for providing me with valuable suggestions, moral support, inspiration and encouragement during the crucial period of the work. Thanks are especially due to the office staff, Department of History, Assam University for their assistance with regard to technical matters.

I owe my special thanks and obligation to my friend, Mr. Nilanjan De, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Rabindrasadan Girls’ College, Karimganj, Assam, for his affection and personal care extended to me.

I give my heartfelt thanks to the Librarian and the staff of the Assam State Archives for giving me access to the materials required for preparing this dissertation. I do acknowledge the help and kindness of many authorities, organizations, institutions and individuals. The most important of them are Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Guwahati, and Indian Official Documents (IOD) Section of the National Library, Kolkata, National Library of Kolkata, State Assembly Library, Dispur, Assam, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development Library, Guwahati, Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Assam, and Gauhati University Library and Assam University Central Library, Silchar.

I also acknowledge my indebtedness to all those, whose work I have consulted, referred to and quoted.

I thank the Almighty and my mother Smt. Bandana Kar for her blessings and constant encouragement and finally I am grateful to my wife Sanghamitra, my elder brother, sister in law, father in law, mother in law and to my little son Supratim and my beloved niece Nandini, those who have extended their full cooperation to do my research. Without their blessings and unending support the work would have never been accomplished.