ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to Professor Kulwant Singh, my research supervisor for his able guidance, constructive suggestions and painstaking efforts at every stage of my work. Words are not adequate to convey my sense of gratitude to Professor Singh. I am also equally indebted to Dr. Paramjit Singh, my co-supervisor for his sincere help and cooperation throughout the period of my research work. His active interest and cooperation has helped me a lot in finishing my research work in due time. It was a pleasing experience to work under their supervision.

I am very grateful to Professor N.D. Sharma and Professor L.R. Sharma, present and former Chairman of the Department of Chemical Engineering & Technology, Panjab University for their help and cooperation in providing research facilities and in numerous other ways during the period of my sojourn. I am also grateful to Professor B. Ghosh for constructive suggestions on several occasions.

I also acknowledge my thanks to all members of the teaching and non-teaching staff for extending necessary help.

My thanks are for the Institute of Technical Chemistry of the Technical University of Berlin, the Institute for Chemical Industries of the Technical University of Denmark, Department of Chemistry & Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre of Panjab University, and I.I.T.
Delhi for providing facilities for different characterisation of the samples.

I am also thankful to Shri Trilochan Singh for carefully typing the manuscript of thesis.

To my wife Mehebu and children I owe a special debt. They tolerated my self-imposed isolation very sympathetically. Their sacrifice is tremendous.

Last but not the least I acknowledge my gratitude to the Government of India for extending financial assistance for the present study under the Indo-Bangladesh Cultural and Academic Exchange Programme.

Chandigarh, May, 1985

( A.K. Monowar Hossain Talukder )