ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to:

- Prof. L. Viswanathan, for his continuous valuable guidance and constant encouragement throughout this investigation. His clear deep insight into many problems encountered during the period of research has enabled me to accomplish my task in the stipulated period of time.

- Dr. P.K. Agrawal for his constant help and valuable suggestions throughout the course of this work.

- Dr. K.A. Prabhu for several discussions.

- Dr. P.K. Bajpai and Purnima for their continuous help in organization.

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (India) for financial assistance.

AUTHOR