ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The candidate expresses his earnest gratitude to Dr. A.K. Ganguly, Director, Chemical Group, BARC for his valuable guidance and constant encouragement in completing this work. Thanks are due to Shri S.D. Soman, Head, Health Physics Division and Shri T. Subbaratnam, Head, HPS section for giving the opportunity and encouragement to carry out the work. The author is deeply indebted to Dr. M.R. Iyer for his constructive suggestions and assistance for finalisation of the thesis.

The help rendered by Shri D.N. Sharma for his useful discussions and help in the computing work is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Shri S.G. Chhabria for his help in carrying out the experiments and to Ss. S.J. Choithramani, N. Raman and P.S. Chhabria for their help in preparing the thesis.