ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisors, Dr. R. Manna and Prof. G.V.S. Sastry for their expert guidance and constant encouragements throughout the entire duration of my Ph.D work. Their stimulation and encouragement influenced me to continue research even in difficult situations. Being my co-supervisor Prof. G.V.S. Sastry had helped me out of the turn to get things through. He was always ready to lend me a hand whenever I needed it and had an answer to the problem.

Besides my advisors, I would like to thank the rest of my Doctoral committee members: Prof. N.K. Mukhopadhyay, Prof. R.K. Mandal, Prof. A.P. Harsha and Prof. A.S.K. Sinha for their support and insightful comments. I am gratefully indebted to Prof. N.K. Mukhopadhyay to listen me and respond me back at his earliest possible whenever I submitted any draft for corrections.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Prof. R.K. Mandal, Former Heads Prof. G.V.S. Sastry, Prof. A.K. Ghose and Prof. Shamsuddin for their valuable advice and extending Departmental facilities required for research work.

Moreover, I wish to record my sincere thank to Prof I. Samajdar, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for extending OIM facility supported by Intensification of Research in High Priority Areas of DST, New Delhi and X-ray diffraction facility. I also want to thank his students Satish Kumar Shekhawat, Durga Prasad, Aditya Prakash and Jaiveer Singh for their co-operation and help to carry out experiments on electron back scattered diffraction and bulk texture measurements.

I wish to thank the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Government of India for the financial support under the project no. SR/S3/ME/0009/2010 (G) dated 14th July 2011.

I sincerely thank all the teachers of the department for fruitful discussion.

I greatly appreciate the timely attention I received from the technical staff at the engineering workshop, Mr. J.P. Minz, Mr. J. Dubey and Mr. Kamlesh Mishra.

I wish to convey my thanks to our lab staffs Mr. Ashok Kumar Vishwakarma, Mr. Lalit Kumar Singh, Mr. Anjani Kumar Singh and Mr. Ramashre Yadav for their extensive help, providing an excellent atmosphere and needful facilities being required during the experiments and characterization.

It was a real pleasure for me having good office staffs, friends around. My special thanks are to Mr. Raj Bahadur Singh for your good company. I owe a lot to friends-Dr. M. Talha, Dr. G. Sudhakar Rao, Dr. M. Raviathul Basariya, Ms. Preeti, Mr. Vikas Shivam, Mr. Vivek Pandey, Mr. Yagnesh and Mr. Raj Bahadur Singh.

I thank my parents and in laws for their loving support and encouragement throughout the progression of this thesis. Finally the sacrifice and endurance of my husband are greatly treasured; my sincere thanks for his long patience. I would also like to thank my hostel mates Mrs. Rati Tripathi (my roommate), Mrs. Purnima Hazra, Mrs. Sarita Yadav, Ms. Anurinjeeta, Ms. Priyanka Singh, Ms. Ankita, Ms. Madhu who supported me during the course.

Deepa Verma