

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The research was conducted at the Soil Mechanics Laboratory of the M.S. University of Baroda. While working the author has grown a deep sense of honour for the vision and foresight of Prof. P.J. Madan, B.Sc. (Edin.), M.Sc. Engg. (London), D.I.C. (London), M.Inst.H.E. (London), M.I.E. (India), Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the M.S. University of Baroda who created the research facilities as the first Professor of Soil Mechanics.

The author owes a deep sense of gratitude to Prof. Piyush Parikh, B.E. (Hons.), M.E. (I.I.Sc.), Ph.D. (Manchester), Professor of Soil Mechanics, M.S. University of Baroda, for his invaluable direction, indefatigable zeal and meticulous attention to all the facets of the research work.

The author wishes to acknowledge the continuous encouragement and very necessary support given by Prof. R.S. Dighe B.E. (Civil), A.M.E.I. (India), M.R.S.H. (London), M.Soc.C.E. (France), Dip. Beton, Pre-contraint, Head of the Applied Mechanic Department during the present research work.

The author is indebted to Prof. A.P. Verma, M.Sc. (Allahabad), Ph.D. (Vikram Univ.), of Mathematics Department for his precious guidance in mathematical work and Prof. M.N. Jathar, B.E. (Civil) D.I.C. (London), Visiting Professor of Soil Mechanics for his many valuable comments and criticism. The author benefitted much from the stimulating discussions from his colleagues especially from Mr. A.K. Shah concurrently working on Doctoral

programme.

The author wishes to express his thanks to all the laboratory staff for their continual assistance and in particular to Mr. P.C. Gandhi, Laboratory Assistant and Mr. Vasant Kadam, Laboratory Attender.

The author wishes to record his appreciations to Mr. C.M. Patel, Workshop Superintendent of Faculty of Technology and Engineering, for extending all the workshop resources. Acknowledgements are due to Operational Research Group of Baroda for according Computer facilities.

The author wishes to express his appreciation to Mr. A.S. Karkhanis and B.D. Mistry who have gone far beyond the usual duties of drawing and typing for the Thesis.
