

OBITUARY

VLADIMIR VLADIMIROVICH BELOUSSOV
(1907 – 1990)

We have learnt with deep regret the passing away of the veteran Geophysicist Professor V. V. Belousov, on 25th December, 1990, at the age of 83. Belousov's notable contributions to structural geology, geophysics and geodesy and his valuable services to the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics as its past president were highly appreciated by Indian geologists and he was elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Geological Society of India in the year 1965. He is remembered for the successful implementation of the Upper Mantle Project and the two successive projects—the Geodynamic Project and the Lithosphere Project.



Belousov was a staunch believer in vertical tectonics. He put forward the theory that the 'basaltic layer' of the crust was actually a layer of degranitised metamorphic granulites. He was a strong critic of the plate tectonic theory and declared that the whole concept was extremely remote from geological reality. He stuck to his theory of 'basification' and 'oceanization'.

Belousov was an invitee at the International Conference on Himalaya held at New Delhi in September, 1976 and it was there I had the privilege of hearing him talk. He was a forceful speaker and belligerent in his style brooking no opposition. He ridiculed the plate tectonic theory, decrying it as an arbitrary presentation, heavily weighted in favour of certain new evidence from the oceans ignoring achievements of classical geological science about the continents. Belousov laid great emphasis on deep drilling to study the composition of the continental and oceanic crust. It was at his instance the deep hole at the Kola peninsula was drilled.

In 1982, he declared that 'only by uniting data of continental and oceanic geology and geophysics can we hope in a reasonable period of time to form the basis of a genuine theory of deep processes, a theory that will not only have scientific value but also practical significance because it will open new doors to wealth of minerals and energy of the earth's interior'.

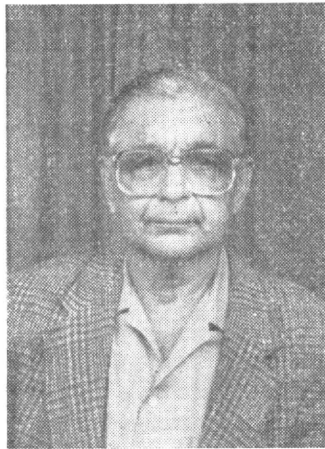
Belousov was a great leader and influenced many Russian earth scientists. His book on 'Geotectonics' is widely read. Rudolf Trumphy in an obituary note has described Belousov 'a bear, strong, kind, wise, presumably dangerous when attacked and profoundly Russian'. This must be a fair and true picture of the great leader of Russian earth science who is now no more.

B. P. RADHAKRISHNA

C. SURYANARAYANA RAO
(1921 - 1991)

C. Suryanarayana Rao died in Bangalore on August 18, 1991 due to heart failure at the age of seventy.

He had his high school and pre-university education in Mysore. He joined Geology Honours course in Central College and took his M.Sc. degree in 1945.



After graduation, he joined the St. Philomina's College, Mysore, as a lecturer in Geology. He was later selected as an Assistant Geologist in the Mysore Geological Department in 1947. His services were loaned in 1950, to the Minerals Division of the Atomic Energy Commission, from where he retired as a Senior Scientific Officer. He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of India and visited U.S.A. to study the uranium deposits of that continent.

He was a dedicated field geologist and made significant contribution to the exploration and exploitation of beryl, columbite-tantalite and lithium minerals of the Bihar Mica belt. He has published a few important papers on the occurrence, nature and economic viability of these deposits. He also guided the investigations of placer deposits along the Kerala coast and held the charge of the southern circle of Atomic Minerals Division for a few years.

After retirement he settled down in Bangalore and engaged himself usefully in the activities of the Indian Institute of World Culture.

Suryanarayana Rao had zest in life and faced the challenges with courage, and optimism. He was of a genial temperament and cultivated many good hobbies. He had practiced the art of ventriloquy. He has left behind many friends and admirers to bemoan his loss. To me personally, it is the end of four decades of intimate friendship.

He is survived by his wife Smt. Susheelamma, a daughter and son, both in USA, to whom we offer our heartfelt sympathies on the bereavement.

Bangalore

Y. N. RAMA RAO