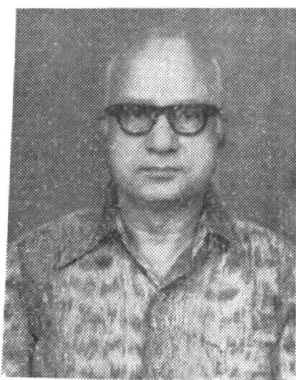


## OBITUARY



S. C. MAHANTI

S. C. Mahanti died in Hyderabad on 20th November, 1991. Graduating from the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, in 1953, S. C. Mahanti joined the Bharat Gold Mines Limited at Kolar Gold Fields as an underground official and remained there for several years. He then entered service with the National Mineral Development Corporation and was involved in a number of operations in various parts of the country, including Kudremukh. Joining the Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited in 1967 he became Mine Manager in 1968 and, in due course, General Manager, Executive Director and, in 1982, Managing Director. His 21 years of service, before retiring in 1988, covered the major part of the particularly difficult time for gold mining during which Gold Control was in force. Mahanti's competence, adaptability and attention to detail assisted the Company in overcoming the difficulties arising from the severely affected operations during that period. During the latter part of his service with the Company he oversaw the merger of two of the Karnataka Government Undertakings, the Chitradurga Copper Company and the Karnataka Copper Consortium, with the Hutti Gold Mines Company. After retirement he continued to serve the mining industry, his services being utilised by both the Hutti Gold Mines and the National Mineral Development Corporation until the time of his death.

Of an amiable nature he had an extensive knowledge and experience of both opencast and underground operations and was popular and well-known in mining circles. For these reasons he was Chairman of the Karnataka Circle of the Mines Safety Association for some years.

A Fellow of the Geological Society of India, he participated in a number of Seminars on gold mining held in Bangalore, contributing a paper—'Gold Mining in India—Exploitation of Gold Ore Reserves as Small Scale Mines in the context of prevailing Indian prices' at the U. N. Regional Seminar on Gold Exploration and Development, held in Bangalore in 1985.

His presence will be missed by all those associated with him over the past four decades. The Society and its members extend their deepest sympathy to Srimati Mahanti and to his family in their loss.

L. C. CURTIS