

## BOOK REVIEWS

**COAL PETROLOGY (KOELA SAILEKI) IN HINDI**, By Dr. Vijay Kumar, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Ranchi, 1992, 244p. and 42 pages of Glossary of English-Hindi terminology.

A study of coal as a rock comes under the purview of Coal Petrology. With the introduction of microscopical investigation of coal, laser measurements of reflectance followed by fluorescence microscopy, these have all considerably helped to widen the frontier of application of coal petrology. In spite of the great use of the study of coal petrology, books on this discipline are rare. In 1924 Robert Potonie first published a book on coal petrology in German. The first edition of Stach's text book of coal petrology was published also in German, in 1935. This was published in English in 1975, and subsequently revised in 1981.

This book on Coal Petrology, by Vijay Kumar in Hindi has updated our knowledge in the subject. The publication is definitely praiseworthy. The printing and get up of the book are very good. The book will, no doubt, be useful for students, teachers and research scholars.

The Coal Mines, Planning and Design Institute, Ranchi, should be congratulated on bringing out such a useful publication.

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**GEOMORPHOLOGY AND REMOTE SENSING IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (1992)**. By Surendra Singh, Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur-342 003, 281p. Rs.475/-.

This book has grown out of the thesis of the author submitted to the University of Jodhpur. As a scientist working in Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, he has had the facilities and equipment to undertake a detailed study of the geomorphology of Jodhpur district of Rajasthan using mainly S.O.I. toposheets, aerial photographs and Landsat imagery, supplemented by field work, wherever necessary.

The landform map (Fig.4, p.34) and the one on Erosional, Depositional and Salinity Hazards (Fig.14, p.197) are the main contributions of the author. It is these that have aided to some extent the study of all other related features. Whereas some good colour pictures are included in the volume, their value would have been enhanced if an overlay has been added demarcating the features, instead of listing them in separate tables. What is rather surprising is that most of the other maps dealing with other related themes contain almost the same units - 15 to be exact, and in a few cases like those on soils (Fig.6, p.71), vegetation (Fig.7, p.96) and Land Use (Fig.13, p.173), they are exactly the same as in the Landform map, only the description is preceded by the theme names in each symbol! Fig.10 (p.154) is strictly not a map dealing with aquifers, though titled as such. It is mainly a lithology map. The units should have been (A) shallow aquifers, (B) Deep aquifers (in rocks), (C) Alluvial aquifers etc, wherein the boundaries will cut across the lithological/landform units.