

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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D.CHANDRA

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. toposhcets, 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.

This book will be of interest to research scholars as it contains the methodology, tools to be used and method of presentation that should be adopted in a work connected with the study of a semiarid landscape.

R.V.

DESERTIFICATION IN THE WORLD AND ITS CONTROL (1992) by T.S.Chouhan, Scientific Publishers, P.O.Box.91, Jodhpur-342 001, 172p.Rs.450/-.

This volume is a collection of material from UNESCO publications on desertification and different thematic maps on Rajasthan (though sources are not specified in the maps, in the latter case). Considerable work in this field has been done by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, Geological Survey of India, Jaipur, Indian Space Research Organisation, Ahmedabad and some individuals. The author has made a good selection from these publications for this volume. Whereas the bibliography creditably covers a number of foreign publications dealing with this theme, reference to some important Indian publications on the same theme, barring those of the author, is conspicuous by its absence. This book contains material on the indicators, spread, causes of desertification and how the landsat imagery has been used to map the areal extent of the desert, and monitor the same, if the spread is fast enough. It ends with the measures that could be adopted to combat desertification.

This collection would be of interest and use to those who would like to have in a small compass, material on desertification in general and in Rajasthan in particular.

R.V.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF INDIA (1992) by Dilip K Banerjee, The World Press Pvt.Ltd., 37-A, College Street, Calcutta-700 073, Rs.100/-.

To write a crisp and meaningful account on the Mineral Resources of India is by no means an easy task as it involves culling and synthesising a vast amount of data from several sources. The effort in this direction, of the author is, therefore, commendable. Accordingly to him, the book is "meant primarily as a text-book for undergraduate students and a ready reckoner for professional geologists".

The book is divided into four parts. Part-1, ostensibly, is an introductory chapter. Other aspects included in it are origin, controls, classification of deposits, mining methods and mining legislation.

Part-2 deals with natural fuels comprising coal, petroleum and natural gas, and nuclear fuels. Part-3 encompasses metallic minerals and part-4, non-metallic minerals. Every mineral is given the status of a Chapter, commencing with a historical background, followed by the grade, origin, distribution, reserves, specifications etc..

There is room for editing and refinement in all the chapters included under the four parts. Statements like i) "the oil fields in Assam is very wide" and ii) "... had undertaken a scheme for a survey of the whole of India in a bigger scale, which has begun giving