

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

rich dividends", need refinement. Likewise the statement that "A big deposit of bauxite has recently been discovered in the Eastern Ghat hill ranges....." may mislead the reader that there is only one deposit. Bauxite deposits of Bastar district (Madhya Pradesh) and Goa are glaring omissions. The unique phlogopite occurrence in the Indian Peninsula near Borra in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh does not find a place in the resource inventory of mica. Specifications given for B.F., S.M.S., and cement grades of limestone are incorrect. The chapter "Environmental Aspect of Mining" (4.26) is sketchy.

The book has a good get-up. The price may be a bit on the higher side for an undergraduate student. The book does contain useful data. But a refined edition at the earliest is desirable.

*Flat 10, HIG Block 3,
Bagh Lingampalle
Hyderabad - 500 044*

P.K.RAMAM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Second International Symposium on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water. By the American Society of Civil Engineers, July 17-22, 1994 at Walt Disney World Swan Hotel, Orlando, Florida, USA. Abstracts (3 copies, up to 300 words) will be accepted until November 15, 1993, and are to be sent to: Ivan Johnson, Co- Chairman, SISAR Organising Committee, A.Ivan Johnson Inc., 7474 Upham Court, Arvada, Colorado, 80003, USA.

The Tenth Convention of Indian Association of Sedimentologists is to take place on 28th, 29th and 30th October, 1993 at the Department of Studies in Geology, Karnatak University, Dharwad- 580 003. All those interested in participating may write for further details to: Dr.V.C.Chavadi, Convener, IAS X convention, Dept of Geology, Karnatak University, Dharwad-580 003.

Project Proposals in the IGBP identified areas are called for from interested scientific and technological organisations and individual scientists. The prescribed format can be obtained from Dr. P.Govinda Rao, SSO-I (ESS), Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi - 110 016. For details refer to Vol. 41 (3), p.284 of the Jour.Geol.Soc.India

Back Volumes of the Journal of the Geological Society of India for Sale. Dr. M.R.Sharma, Scientist, Mineral Division, Regional Research Laboratory, Canal Road, Jammu Tawi-180 001, offers to sell back volumes from Nos.11 (1970) to 41 (1993) - almost a complete set. Those interested may write to him.