

## OBITUARY

### **Kota Ramachandra Karanth (1929-1997)**

Shri. K.R. Karanth, Director (Retd.), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India passed away on 28.12.1997 at the age of 68 years at Bangalore. In his death the geoscience community has lost a reputed hydrogeologist.

Kota Ramachandra Karanth was born in Kota of Udipi taluk, South Kanara district, Karnataka. He obtained his Masters degree in Geology from Madras University.

Shri. K.R. Karanth joined Geological Survey of India and later opted for Central Ground Water Board. He used to remember his association with late Dr. M.S. Krishnan whom, as a Geological Assistant, assisted in bringing out the Lexicon on Geology. While at GSI, he served in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Later, in CGWB he served in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa.

He was a member of several scientific bodies, Command Area Development Authority Boards of Pochampad and Nagarjuna Sagar Projects of Andhra Pradesh, Founder Member of the Indian Association of Geohydrogeologists. He served as Director in Boards of Irrigation Development Corporation and Agro Industries Corporation. He served as Director of Ground Water Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh on deputation from CGWB between 1973-78. In 1978 he was repatriated to CGWB and took up as Director of Western Region, covering Rajasthan and Gujarat. His work on Luni Basin is considered of very high standard. He had a keen sense of observation and mindframe which set him apart from others. In 1982, he took over as the first Director of the newly formed Southwestern Region of CGWB at Bangalore, covering the States of Karnataka, Kerala and Goa and continued till his retirement in 1987. After retirement he made significant contribution in the development of Ground Water Resource of Indira Gandhi Canal, Narmada Valley and Upper Krishna Project. He represented Karnataka State, serving as a Technical Expert, in their submission to Cauvery Tribunal.

Shri. K.R. Karanth has published over sixty scientific papers and authored two books, the first titled "Ground Water Assessment, Development and Management" and the second titled "Hydrogeology" both published by Tata McGraw Hill. These books are unique, wherein he included Indian case studies and examples, many drawn from his experience. He was planning for additional titles on "Conjunctive use of Ground Water and Surface Water" and "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water".

Though he was suffering from acute arthritis for many years, he continued to work with zeal till the end and was a source of inspiration to the younger colleagues. Shri. K.R. Karanth made a niche for himself in the hydrogeological arena by being a *karmayogi* and by his valuable contribution to the society. He will be fondly remembered with respect by fellow hydrogeologists.

*Central Ground Water Board, Raipur*

V.S. PRAKASH