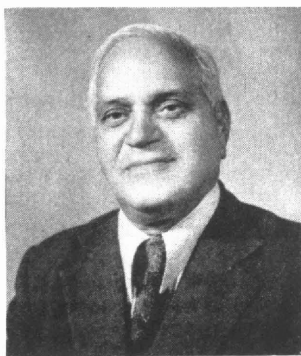


OBITUARY



S. P. Nautiyal
(1916-2000)

It is with profound grief that we record the sad demise of Shir S.P. Nautiyal, at 12:00 hours on 5-4-2000 at Dehra Dun, after protracted illness. Satyeshwar Prasad Nautiyal was born on 16 June, 1916 at Sidoli, Chamoli district, Uttar Pradesh. He obtained his Master's Degree in Geology with First Class Honours from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1939. After a short stint as a faculty member in BHU, he joined GSI in 1941.

Nautiyal's researches on the geology of Himalaya date back to 1938-1939 as a University student, which he pursued after joining the Survey. His contributions on the stratigraphy, tectonics, economic geology of Kumaon Himalaya have been of immense value for researchers. Nautiyal and his team laid the base of geological and mineral exploration in Nepal and Bhutan. A doyen of engineering geology, he was intimately associated with various prestigious river valley projects like Bhakra, Rihand and Marora. He presented a new synthesis of the geology of Mysore Plateau in his Presidential Address to the Indian National Science Congress in 1966. He applied the ideas of Himalayan tectonics involving extensive thrusting to the Dharwar rocks which led to stratigraphic resurgence in Dharwar geology.

Nautiyal was the recipient of Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship for studying Petroleum Exploration and Production and was instrumental in advising the Government in various aspects of exploration in the formative years of Oil and Gas industry in India. He was the founding father of Mineral Exploration Corporation, the premier Mineral Exploration Agency in the public sector. He became Managing Director in 22 November, 1972 and Chairman-cum-Managing Director in July 1974. While heading MECL, he was elevated to the rank of Director General of GSI. After leaving MECL on 30 July 1975, he became Chairman, UP State Mineral Development Corporation and subsequently became the Chairman of the Hill Development Corporation (1975-1977) and served on the boards of PSUs dealing with minerals. He became the President of the Governing Body of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun in 1977. He was Vice Chancellor of Garhwal University from 1988 to 1991. He was the life member of prestigious societies like Indian Science Congress, Geological Mining and Metallurgical Society of India, Palaeontological Society of India and Geological Society of India.

He was an effective leader and a lovable human being. He will be missed very much by all and especially by the geological community. He leaves behind his wife, three sons and a daughter to mourn his loss.

Geological Survey of India, Lucknow

RAVI SHANKER