

REVIEW

GROUNDWATER POTENTIAL IN HARD ROCK AREAS OF INDIA. Proceedings of the Seminar held in Bangalore, July 1970. Geological Society of India, Bangalore 1, Price Rs. 20/- (Lib. Edn. Rs. 30/-).

We have received a copy of the volume containing the full proceedings of the Seminar on 'Groundwater Potential in Hard Rock areas of India' held in Bangalore in July 1970, and jointly organised by the Geological Society of India, Institution of Engineers (India), Mysore Centre, and the Indian Statistical Institute, Mysore State Branch. Although the importance of groundwater resources especially in an agricultural country like India has been recognised in a general way for quite a long time, it is only in recent years that the subject has been receiving attention on the basis of systematic and scientific investigations being carried out in different parts of the country. In the course of this work it is being increasingly realised that for making a reasonably accurate assessment of the various factors involved in the study of groundwater potential in the hard rock areas, which form the major part of Peninsular India, it is most essential to evolve an inter-disciplinary approach for their understanding and solution. It was therefore most appropriate of the organising committee of the present Seminar to have thought of bringing together on a common platform leading scientists from different disciplines working in this field and consider, with a true team spirit, measures for the coordinated studies of the various problems involved.

The proceedings of the Seminar were conducted in five technical sessions; (i) Hydrometeorology, (ii) Hydrogeology, (iii) Engineering Hydrology, (iv) Agricultural Hydrology and (v) Statistics in Hydrology, each of the Sessions being presided over by one of the seniormost and active workers in the concerned field. Their opening addresses together with the following invited key papers from distinguished workers in the five disciplines presented an up-to-date and masterly review of the present position in the fields concerned and the nature of the problems to be tackled in each field on a coordinated basis. A praiseworthy feature of the Seminar was that the texts of all the invited contributions were circulated well in advance to enable the delegates to study the papers before participating in the Seminar, and also send their comments and questions in advance to enable the authors to give their considered views and opinions at the open meeting. The conduct of the Seminar was thus very exact and businesslike in its deliberations, as can be clearly seen from the way in which the various papers and the questions and answers thereon have been edited and brought out in the volume. The Seminar was evidently one of the best organised and was naturally a great success.

The Seminar volume which contains 143 pages of closely printed matter in double columns has brought together a wealth of detailed information about conditions affecting the occurrence and utilisation of groundwater in hard rock areas and forms an important and valuable contribution to the study of groundwater in India.

Arising out of its deliberations, the Seminar has in conclusion also formulated certain important recommendations for an integrated approach for the assessment and utilisation of groundwater potential in hard rock areas. These constitute a very valuable part of the proceedings of the Seminar; and it is earnestly to be hoped that coming from a body of specialists with the widest experience and professional competence, these recommendations emerging from their deliberations will promptly receive the urgent and serious consideration which they deserve.