

where we stand in respect of each of these controversial issues. Important mineral finds during the year should similarly be highlighted. These should catch the eye and not lie deeply hidden somewhere in the report requiring considerable effort to fish them out.

The Western region of the Geological Survey of India is an active regions in the country, where spectacular progress, both in the academic aspects of geology as well as in the field of mineral investigation, have been achieved in recent years. The region has also the distinction of bringing its annual report within a year of the close of the season. An attractive geological map in colour adorns the cover page. There are several line drawings and maps which add to the utility of the publication. We welcome the publication and congratulate the officers of the region for the excellent tempo of progress maintained. We look forward to receiving many more valuable reports and maps of this interesting and mineral-rich region, in quick succession.

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**ROLE OF EARTH SCIENCES IN ENVIRONMENT.** K. C. Sahu (Ed.). Indian Institute of Technology (1988), pp. 1-305.

This is a volume containing the papers presented at the National Symposium on 'Role of Earth Science in Environment' sponsored by a large number of earth science organizations in the country and held at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, between 24-26 December 1987. The three main aspects covered are: (1) Environmental impact of Mineral Exploration, (2) Problem of urbanization and (3) Water pollution. The aspects covered are of vital importance. The organization of the seminar was a timely and worthwhile exercise.

Awareness of keeping the environment clean and improving the quality of life is yet to dawn on us. Although as a nation, we are habitually a clean people taking a daily bath and keeping the interior of our houses neat and tidy, the same sense of cleanliness does not appear to have extended outside our houses. Individual cleanliness and collective dirtiness has characterized our lives. Our obligations to society are rated to be very low. Villages continue to remain as dung heaps. Towns are no better. They are becoming dirtier and dirtier every day. Affluence with its craze for consuming things is ending up with only effluents. Overflowing drains, unbearable stench, streets full of garbage, are the common lot of a town dweller. What is the solution to this growing menace?

How are we to protect the health and environment at reasonable cost without at the same time slowing down the process of industrialization which has the potential of providing gainful employment and job security to a large number of our countrymen?

This is the major problem which the country is facing today. Geoscientists are no doubt in a minority but have the major responsibility of identifying resources for development. Their responsibility should not end there, but should extend to finding ways and means of reducing pollution. The papers gathered together in this volume serve to give an idea of the menacing extent of the problem and the mammoth proportion of the task lying before us.

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