

NOTES

RETROSPECTION

While on the subject of scientific temper or lack of it in our institutions, other unfortunate examples are the manner we conduct our seminars and conferences, the wasteful expenditure involved and most unbusiness-like proceedings. At the institution level if you want to see further glaring examples of lack of a scientific temper go and visit some of the laboratories, conceived more as museums than examples in utility. Visit the Directors' rooms with an accommodation that can fit a fullfledged wing of a laboratory ; with marble flooring and wall to wall carpets, an envy even of the Chief Executive of Tata or Birla groups ! Have we paused to give a thought as to what makes us go for such wasteful expenditure, at the cost of our poor countrymen. Where there is so much waste can corruption be far behind ? Is it wrong to call this 'commercialisation of science ?' Is it a manifestation of an inferiority complex or is it a deliberate attempt at empire building. Again who do we blame for this sorry spectacle ? How do we undo this false value system and pretentious ways that have become so much a part of the everyday life of many of our scientists, particularly in Government sponsored research institutes and departments.

What is equally important for fostering of science in the country is the way the scientists in power and position handle and treat their junior colleagues, the freshers who come to work with lots of promise and hope, how they are motivated for greater effort in the cause of better science lest they should fade out and drop out without blossoming. Therefore the priority area of work before we become festidious in our expectations from the country lies in setting right our house in order ; by recognising and encouraging real merit, by avoiding playing favourites, by abhorring waste of men and materials, by a steadfast belief in scientific temper as a way of life and by not playing politics in science. As long as scientists play politics, we cannot expect politicians not to play with science.

'The Hindu'
November 10, 1992

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*(Extracted from an article in 'The Hindu' Nov. 10, 1992
authored by N. Mohan Rao, Formerly of Defence, R and D
Organisation.)*

CONTRIBUTION OF DST FOR MICROLEVEL PLANNING

A project titled 'Natural Resources Data Management System' (NRDMS) was conceived by the Department of Science and Technology in 1982, aimed at developing methodologies for generating computer compatible spatial databases of natural resources and collateral data on socio and agro-economic parameters. So far both planning and execution were on a regional scale and also not always with all the necessary basic data at hand. Here is an attempt to encourage micro-level planning, and collection and dissemination of data from as many agencies as

possible and make it available to all those who require it. The training of potential users is also contemplated. Ten district level data-base centres have been established in different geo-environmental settings right from Uttar Pradesh in the north to Kerala in the south.

NRDMS methodology is founded on the concepts of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). All data gathered from existing sources are collected after conversion into computer compatible formats. Wherever possible socio and agro-economic data are stored with village as the unit. If need be, limited primary surveys are conducted. Modern data sources like remote sensing (satellite and aerial) are made use of intensively. The result is production of a number of coloured maps on a variety of themes relevant for appropriate planning in the area in question – for example they may be on intensity of erosion (Goa), degree of salinity (Nadiad), reclaimable wasteland (Koraput), agricultural development and potential (Amethi), irrigation water scheduling (Kheda), water harvesting (Pauri), etc. There are plans to focus attention on resource mapping, micro watershed management, land potential evaluation, minor irrigation structures and more importantly, natural disasters mitigation.

In some of the areas projects are already being executed, though on a minor scale using the database collected so far. The efforts that are being put in are not yet publicised enough for people to make use of the data and the expertise generated, and being made available. It is hoped that the planners at the grass root level will start making use of the data. Excellent publications are now available explaining the objectives and modest achievements of NRDMS. Those interested may write to the Director, NRDMS, Dept. of Science and Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016.

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SMALL IRON ORE DEPOSIT, IN KADUR TALUK, CHIKMAGALUR DISTRICT, KARNATAKA

An unreported iron ore deposit is located within N. Lat. 13°31'50" to 13°32'50" and E. Long. 75°52' to 75°52'26", on Doddabale Siddarugudda at an altitude of 1563 m in Kadur Taluk, Chikmagalur district, Karnataka. The deposit is on the eastern portion of the Bababudan Schist belt in the Dharwar Craton of Karnataka, the structure of which has been studied in detail by Chadwick *et al.* (1985). Detailed mapping indicates that the deposit forms the western link of the regional synclinal structure to the west of Madagakere.

The deposit is an integral part of banded hematite quartzite which has an areal extent of 3.15 Hect. The estimated true thickness of BHQ is 300 m. The average grade of the iron ore is estimated as 60.41%. The reserves, estimated to a depth of 30m, is 3 million tonnes.

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Reference

- CHADWICK, B. RAMAKRISHNAN, M. and VISWANATHA, M. N. (1985) Bababudan—A Late Archaean Intracratonic volcanosedimentary basin, Karnataka, Southern India, Part II: Structure. *Jour. Geol. Soc. India*, v. 26, pp. 802-821.