

CORRESPONDENCE

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WHAT IS THE RATIONALE IN WITHHOLDING GEOLOGICAL MAPS?

(We reproduce here excerpts from the letters of response to the above editorial published in the September 1993 issue of the Journal—Ed.)

Dr. Radhakrishna's viewpoint on the '... Rationale in withholding Geological Maps', published in the Journal of the Geological Society of India (Vol. 42, No. 3, 1993, pp. 215-216) is timely.

The new National Mineral Policy is aimed at promoting exploitation of mineral wealth at a faster pace with provision for increased participation of private agencies. Will such agencies have access to geological maps in order to conceive and implement viable Mining Projects? Perhaps not—unless specific guidelines are formulated and announced by the concerned authorities.

A new system of submission of Mining Plan for every Mining Lease, be it under MMRD Act or MCDR Rules, has been introduced in recent years. These documents are said to be aimed at systematising the Mining operations with a view to achieving effective conservation of the Mineral wealth and efficient Environmental Management of the Mining areas. A regional geological map of the subject area and its environs is an essential prelude for drafting a meaningful Mining Plan. How to get the Map is the moot question?

Survey of India has a policy of atleast making available to the Public, topo-sheets (Priced) of all open areas (unrestricted). Topo-sheets pertaining to 'strategic' areas (viz., Restricted sheets) are not available for sale except to certain organisations—government and educational—on certain terms, connected with security. Is it not possible for the Geological Survey of India, and other national organisations to adopt the same philosophy in respect of sharing geological maps/data? Regretably, no other agency takes up the job of preparation of geological maps even of some important/select areas, for reasons best known to them. Consequently dependence on the Geological Survey of India, for these maps, has become unavoidable and inevitable.

If everything is 'classified' and cannot be parted with, the moot question that remains unanswered is 'Who is the beneficiary?'—certainly not the NATION.

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Dr. B. P. Radhakrishna's rejoinder on publication of geological maps is timely.

The pathetic state of non-availability of sufficiently large scale geological maps of India was lamented years back by no other a person than Prof. A. R. Crawford, who on seeing a YOUNG PRECAMBRIAN territory south of '8° or 9° latitude' in one of the USSR Academy compilations, based on Holm's (1955) results on

Travancore beach sands, included the territory for investigations while planning his major work on dating the Indian Precambrians. Such is the synoptic penetration capacity of geological maps while planning major regional investigations. However, the question of early publication of geological maps of India must be considered in the backdrop of the New Economic Policy of the Government of India. While we hope for more investments (both foreign and national) and increased production, minerals must open up new vistas for investment. This can materialise only if sufficiently detailed geological and mineral maps are made available to interested parties. The publication of large scale geological maps should be a major concern of the framers of the New Economic Policy.

After accomplishing the major task of publishing the maps, the premier geological organisation must gear up for the preparation of very large scale (say 1:25000, 1:10000 etc.) geological and mineral maps to strengthen the data base on resources and geological hazards of the PANCHAYATI RAJ institutions in the country, so that their resources can be productively utilised.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRANTS - IN - AID. The American Association of Petroleum Geologists: To support graduate students in studies related to earth science aspects of the petroleum industry who plan courses that will contribute to the practice of petroleum geology in the petroleum industry. Grants will be given to students whose studies relate to the search and development of hydrocarbons and economic sedimentary minerals and/or to environmental geology as it pertains to the petroleum industry.

The grant is up to a maximum amount of \$ 2000 to be utilised in an accredited education institution outside the U.S.

For Application form write to : The Geological Society of India, 63, Basappa Layout, Gavipuram Extn., Bangalore 560 019.

Note: Deadline for applications to be received by William A. Morgan, AAPG Grants-in-Aid Committee, P. O. Box 979, Tulsa OK. 74101 - 0979 is **January 15, 1994.**

Workshop on Himalaya - Karakorum Tibet will be organised by Nepal Geological Society, Post Box 231, Kathmandu, from **1 to 4 April 1994 in Kathmandu, Nepal.** Those interested in participating in the same should write to the Organisers immediately.

Second South Asia Geological Congress, Colombo, Sri Lanka - Dates changed to **6-11 February 1995.** For details see JGSI, Vol. 41(5), 1993, p. 478.

Second Orientation Course on Analytical Techniques and Data Interpretation in Petrology from 14-25 Feb., 1994 is to be organised by the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun, 248 001. The aim of the course is to acquaint the participants (below 35 years age) with the modern trends of research in instrumentation techniques and data interpretation. The main theme of the course will be sampling and sample preparation techniques, petrographic techniques, theoretical background of the analytical equipments, practical aspects of the equipments (demonstration) and interpretation of analytical data in solving geological problems pertaining to Petrogenesis and Ore genesis. For further details write to the Director, WIHG, or Convener of the Course.