

OBITUARY

DR. ABANI KUMAR DEY (1901-1995)

We deeply regret to inform the passing away of Dr. A.K. Dey, Seniormost Fellow of the Geological Society of India at Calcutta on the 19th January, 1995 at 8.30 A.M. due to cardiac failure.

Dr. Dey was born at Abbottabad, N.W.F. Province (now in Pakistan), on August 1, 1901 and graduated from the Presidency College, Calcutta in 1923. The same year he joined the Geological Survey of India and served that organisation in various capacities for nearly thirtyfive years.

Later he served as Director (Geology) in the newly constituted ONGC and later as Professor and Head of the Department of Geology, at Utkal University (1957-1963). He then shifted to Delhi and served as a Senior Specialist in the Planning Commission.

He is the author of many books, the most important being "India's Mineral Wealth" published in 1955 along with Mr. Coggin Brown. He has also written a popular book on the Geology of India for the National Book Trust. He was a Foundation Fellow of the Geological Society of India and took keen and active interest in all its activities.

The Society mourns the loss of a distinguished fellow.

G.R. UDAS (1921-1995)

On 18th Jan., 1995, Dr. Gajanan Rajaram Udas, passed away after a prolonged illness at Pune. He is survived by his wife and three sons. Born on 28th March, 1921, Dr. Udas obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Bombay. In the geological profession he started his career as a mining engineer in the Chitral Mining Corporation, now in Pakistan, and retired from service as Director of the Atomic Mineral Division of Government of India which he joined in October, 1950. While in AMD he was mainly associated with the detailed survey, prospecting, drilling, evaluation and development of Jaduguda Uranium deposit.

The subject of his Ph.D. thesis was the carbonatite and alkaline rocks of Amba Dongar. He kept up his interest in subsequent years and published a number of papers on fenitization, fluoride deposits, isotopic studies and rare earth extraction from carbonatite rocks. He underwent special training at the USGS in exploration for sandstone-type uranium deposits.

His academic interest made him visit the geology department of University of Poona quite frequently. He donated most of his personal collection of books and journals to the Jaykar Library of the Poona University. For a short while he accepted the responsibility as Professor and Head of the Geology Department at N.E.H.U., Shillong, but could not continue.

Dr. Udas combined the qualities of an efficient administrator and a keen geoscientist and strove hard to augment India's nuclear raw material resources.

I consider it my privilege to write these few lines in the memory of Dr. G.R. Udas. He will be long remembered by his friends, colleagues and peers within and outside the country not only for his contributions to our knowledge on uranium mineralisations and on carbonatite geochemistry but also for his uprightness, honesty, desciplined personality as well as for his friendliness.

Professor of Geology, University of Poona, Pune - 411 007

A.M. PATWARDHAN