

Book Notes*

K. B. Suri (ed.). *Small Scale Enterprises in Industrial Development: The Indian Experience.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1988. 348pp.

This book consists of original papers by eminent economists on various aspects of the small-scale industrial sector in India. Among the issues investigated by the contributors are the relative efficiency of the small sector; the widely-held beliefs about its employment-generating and capital-saving characteristics; the rationale and impact of government policies that support small enterprises; and the capacity of the small sector to play its assigned role in Indian industrial development.

Gilbert Etienne. *Food and Poverty: India's Half Won Battle.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1988. 272pp.

This book is an analysis of poverty in India on the basis of repeated surveys of selected areas over a period of time in excess of two decades. Three broad categories of regions have been chosen for this study which represent, respectively, advanced areas; poor but potentially rich areas, and areas that face severe physical constraints. The focus is primarily, on economic growth and its impact on the rural poor.

M. V. Nadkarni. *Farmers' Movements in India.* New Delhi: Allied Publishers. 1987. 237pp.

This is a critical study of farmers' movements on price and related issues, which took place in several states in India since the later 1970s. Apart from documenting the major events which should be of historical interest, it interprets and assesses these movements, and examines their contentions particularly on price issues, their demands and ideologies.

The book probes into the class basis of the movements both in the rural and inter-sectoral perspectives and evaluates whether and to what extent the movements have a progressive potential.

Noordin Sopiee, Chew Lay See and Lim Siang Jin (eds.). *ASIAN at the Cross-roads: Obstacles, Options and Opportunities in Economic Cooperation.* Malaysia: Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS). 1987. 577pp.

This book is the outcome of the efforts of the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry to mobilize public awareness and to engender debate on ASEAN economic co-operation and integration. It is a collection of papers presented at the First ASEAN Economic Congress held in Kuala Lumpur from March 13–22, 1987. Of the four major parts into which the book is divided the first part, is the largest, with seventeen papers on the overall theme of the problems and prospects of ASEAN co-operation in various fields; the other three parts of the book are devoted to the analysis of the experiences of European economic integration, of the European Free Trade Association and of economic co-operation between Australia and New Zealand and discuss the possible lessons for ASEAN that can be drawn from these experiences.

S. Mukerji, S. Abraham and C. P. Prakasam. *Student Research Abstracts in Population Studies.* Bombay: Himalaya Publishing House. 1986. xi + 434pp.

This volume presents the summaries of over 600 research abstracts in the field of population studies. These seminar papers have been prepared by the students at the International Institute of Population Studies over the last 25 years.

The research review provides an objective of study, the sources of data, the methodology, the results and conclusions of the study. The papers themselves provide interesting reading on the change of emphasis in demographic literature over the last quarter of a century.

The volume will provide interesting research material on the subject of population in the Asian and Pacific region.

Lim Chong Yah and Associates. *Policy Options for the Singapore Economy.* Singapore: McGraw-Hill Co. 1988. xv + 499pp.

This book is a collective view of 26 authors from the Economics and Statistics Department of the National University of Singapore, who discuss the policy options adopted by Singapore which were responsible for the phenomenal growth of its economy.

Overall the book is interesting, written in a simple and straight forward language and well explained with the help of graphs, tables, and appendix so that it might be easy for a reader to get a clear picture of the policy options for the Singapore economy.

B. D. Dhawan. *Irrigation in India's Agricultural Development: Productivity, Stability, Equity.* New Delhi: Sage Publications. 1988. 265pp.

The author has made extensive use of country-wide statistics and other data to assess the productivity and stability of irrigated agriculture in India.

This volume comprises of ten chapters, which may be divided into two distinct parts. The first three chapters offer a discussion on conceptual problems: *a priori* expectations about the impact of irrigation on different attributes of a farm economy, the issue of one-to-one correspondence between irrigation and multiple cropping of land resource, and the external output effects of irrigation; and the methodology for assessing irrigation impact. Of the seven chapters in the second part 4, 5, and 6 deal with productivity and income impact of irrigation, and chapters 7 and 8 discuss the empirical issues in water management. Chapter 9 takes up the issue of equity in sharing gains from irrigation. The final chapter is devoted to a recapitulation of the empirical findings along with policy implications.

Replete with a wide range of policy and practical implications, this book will interest planners, economists, and all those interested in agricultural growth and water management. To assist the readers, appendix notes are given at the end of the chapters.