

*Fundamentals of Periodic Market-places and Networks* : By B. G. Tamaskar; Inter-India Publications, New Delhi, 1992, pp. 220, Price Rs. 170/-.

Fundamentals of Periodic Market Places and Networks by B. G. Tamaskar (The grand old man of weekly Markets in India) is the distillate of four decades of painstaking research. Targeted at the Uninitiated freshmen, the book is cast in the mould of a primer.

The contents, spread over sixteen short sections are made up of the earlier (published) works of the author, strung together with additional material based on empirical observations made by the author from time to time. The organisation of the chapters is made with a view to providing the reader with glimpse of the whole gamut of attributes related to the periodic marketing system in general.

Within the compact size of the book, the author has managed to air a number of core issues related to periodic markets, namely the economic functions of weekly markets, their spatio-temporal spacing patterns, buyeerseller behaviour, morphology and hierarchy of weekly markets and rural - urban interaction of such institutions. The idea of market attractiveness as perceived by the buyer and the efficiency of the market in the eyes of the seller

have been computed by Tamaskar using a simple indirect measure which could be of some utility. The book has a rich bibliography and the simple exercises and suggestions for further study introduced at the end of each chapter is bound to stimulate the student in his quest for further information.

In an overview and acceding to the author's request in the (last para) of the preface, inviting constructive criticism, the reviewer has ventured to plead that in the further editions, the author could employ a more easily assimilable literary style. So that it may be easily comprehensible even to those of lesser intellect. Similarly, the author's, excessive concern to present in a nutshell, the multidimensional facts of weekly markets has at times give us a bewildering medley of view points. The book possesses the merit of touching upon nearly all core areas of weekly marketing activity. Which makes it a useful reader for students embarking on serious study of periodic markets.

*Jayamala Diddee*

*Central India : Resources and Development* : by J. P. Singh, Bhaskar Publications, Bhopal, 1994 pp. 348, price Rs. 300/-

Two decades after the publication of Dr. Pramila Kumar's Madhya Pradesh - *Ek Bhougolik Adhyayan* in Hindi, here is another book on Madhya Pradesh, titled as Central India. 'Why this change' is not at all clear, as all through the book the author talks of M.P. and strictly confines himself to the State, without even remotely looking beyond its borders, that could lend some meaning and credibility to the title.

Running into over 300 pages, the book is, as the sub-title suggests all about the resources and development of Madhya Pradesh. And one would be sorely disappointed if one is looking for a composite landscape picture of Chattisgarh, Bhaghelkhand or Mahakoshal. Written in an unconventional style, it starts with a discussion of the meaning and concept of development followed by the evolving ter-

ritorial organization of the State in a historical perspective, with a short chapter on the city of Bhopal. Then follow the discussion of resources and their development (natural resources, power resources, Narmada valley projects, Agriculture, food, industrial development, Population, transport and tourism, levels of development, planning and development and summary and conclusion) with a bibliography and of index.

In writing this book, Singh is acutely alive to the past glory of Madhya Pradesh and its

component regions, and deeply concerned with the future economic development of the State, but sadly neglects the contemporary physical and cultural landscapes. What has emerged in the process is a book that is rich in facts, yet tends to be sterile in ideas and interpretative viewpoints.

An informative text and a good introduction to Madhya Pradesh.

*K. R. Dixit*

*Cultural Geography of Folk Houses* : by R. S. Pawar, Pointer Publishers, Jaipur.  
1992. pp. 212, Rs. 300/-

This book follows the trend of the study of folk house types as the central theme in Cultural Geography, especially among Indian Geographers. The author, time and again, stresses the importance of folk houses as the most obvious and visible aspects in understanding the distinctive cultural landscapes. He has confined his study to the lower Chambal Region and identified nine house types which he further puts under three broad categories. The book is organised into six chapters. The introductory chapter familiarizes the reader with the theme and also the study area, giving a brief review of the literature pertaining to the study, the scope, methodology and hypothesis ending with the typology of folk houses in the region. The second chapter deals with the different elements of folk dwellings like the material used for construction and the layout of the individual units. The author here dwells upon various physical, geographical, social and cul-

tural factors which influence the layout and construction of the houses. In the next three chapters detailed analysis of tribal, non-tribal and multi-folk houses based on primary survey (through questionnaires and the author's own perception and observations) is made. The author in conclusion feels that the cultural factors are more powerful than physical factors in determining the variations in house types, a contention he has contradicted many a time in the text. What is emphasized in the text is the simplicity and traditionality of folk dwellings as also their relation in the ecological context. Unfortunately, the maps, plates and the figures have lost clarity in reduction. The author may remedy this shortcoming in the next edition. The book is definitely a welcome addition to the sparse literature on folk houses.

*Jayamala Diddee*