

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