

*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-