

KANOON KI DALL PAR (2001). BY PAWAN CHAUDHARY
'MANMAUJI'. Vidhi Sewa, Delhi. Pp. xix + 376. Price Rs. 400/-

PAWAN CHAUDHARY 'Manmauji' is a well-known writer, journalist, and law teacher besides being a practicing advocate since 1970 and advocate on record, Supreme Court since 1979. He has won many literary awards. Two students of Kurukshetra University have done M. Phil on him and his works. One of them has earned Ph.D. degree on his life and entire works.

The book under review, "Kannon Ki Dall Par", is the latest in the series of books brought out by him in English and Hindi on common man's perception of our legal system including judicial apparatus and their working. The title of the book is not only in consonance with the subjects taken up in the book but also depicts the author's passion with such titles. His previous books are titled as "Wonderland of law and justice", "Kanoon aur Hum", "Kanoon Ka Jungle" (essays), "Vakalat Mein Adalat", "Nayaye Ke Dham Par" (satire), "Mr. Insaf", "Kanoon Shree", "Dard-E-Dakhila" (novels), "Justice Kuldip Singh: Vision and mission", "Yayavar Ki Yad Mein" (biographies), etc.

The present book is a collection of 79 essays by the author, written and published in prominent newspapers and periodicals during the long period of 22 years from 1979 to 2001 on issues ranging from Constitution, law, justice, women, politics, crime, judicial activism, economic offences, gender justice and even literature and particularly the life of and law in works of Agyeya¹. The author also deals with important and burning issues concerning legal education, legal and judicial system, appointment of judges and re-appointment of retired judges, retirement age and salary of judges, constitution of National Judicial Commission, uniform civil code, judicial arrears, holidays in courts.

His essays also cover women related issues as well as those in the realm of family law like family courts, mahila adalats, maternity benefits to working women, maintenance to parents, illegal wife and illegitimate children, divorce by mutual consent, equal pay for equal work, bigamy and its effects, Hindu marriage law, illegal termination of pregnancy, women welfare, prostitution, marital problems, etc. The author has also touched sensitive issues like sexual abuse, adultery, dowry offences,

1. Sachidanand Hiranand Vatsyayan, a great Hindi literary figure.



sati, women lawyers and their struggle and aspirations for appointment in high courts and the Supreme Court.

In his essays on the Constitution, its working and review the author considers, Indian Constitution as the best legal document of both socialism and capitalism. He compares Constitution with a living and growing tree, drawing his inspiration from Agyaya's poem, "Mahavriksh Ke Neeche". He observes that although the Constitution is meant to save the society and not vice-versa yet its review has to be handled and undertaken carefully, else constitutional amendments, like human joints getting arthritis, may weaken the Constitution.

The author's style of writing is satirical and thought provoking. He only opens the window of the subject to the readers and leaves rest to their imagination and contemplation. The author acts more like a pathologist to analyze the symptoms and leaves it at that. The author has written the book in a simple and lucid Hindi language. There is, however, no coherent, systematic and subject wise treatment of the essays. The forward by Dr. Upender Bakshi is in English language and the author has done well to give its Hindi translation for the benefit of Hindi readers.

The book would certainly prove to be interesting and useful and thought provoking to those who deal in law like lawyers and judges, law teachers and students. It would equally prove interesting to ordinary readers. The quality of printing is good. Though the price is not very unreasonable, if it had been less it would have a better reach to the ordinary citizen.

Whether one agrees with the writings and views of 'Manmauji', one thing is clear that he provides food for thought about the legal system and the judicial institution and the need for reforms. Such a book serves a useful purpose, as in the words of Professor Upender Bakshi, the book offers ways for the recovery of law, justice and constitutionalism for India.

*Prem Kumar**

* Additional District & Sessions Judge, Delhi.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

SAMMAIAH MUNDRATHI, *Law on Compensation to Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* (2002). Deep & Deep Publications Pvt. Ltd., F-159, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi 110 0027. Pp. xv+200. Price Rs. 450/-.

NITAI ROY CHOWDHURY, *Indian Prison Laws and Correction of Prisoners* (2002). Deep & Deep Publications Pvt. Ltd., F-159, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi - 110 0027. Pp. xiii+453. Price Rs. 950/-.

N.R. MADHAVA MENON, *Criminal Justice India Series Vol. I* (2002). Allied Publishers Private Limited, Kolkata - 700 006. Pp. xx+256. Price Rs. 200/-.

VIDISHA BARUA, *Press & Media Law Manual* (2002). Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., C-FF-1A, Ansal's Dikhush Industrial Estate, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi - 110 033. Pp. xvii + 662. Price Rs. 575/-.

H.L. KUMAR, *Digest of Labour Cases 1990 - February 2002* (2002). Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., C-FF-1A, Ansal's Dikhush Industrial Estate, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi - 110 033. Pp. cix+311. Price Rs. 365/-.

MANISH ARORA, *Career in Law* (2002). Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., C-FF-1A, Ansal's Dikhush Industrial Estate, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi - 110 033. Pp. xi+136. Price Rs. 95/-.