

V.G. RAMACHANDRAN'S CONTEMPT OF COURT (2002). By Justice V.K. Mehrotra, Eastern Book Co., 34, Lalbagh, Lucknow – 226 001. Pp. XCVI + 1262. Price Rs. 960/-.

AN AUTHENTIC commentary on the subject of contempt of court was long overdue and the latest edition of *Contempt of Court* has filled up the vacuum. The book has taken into consideration the entire contours of the law of contempt. The maintenance of rule of law is the integral part of any civilized society. The execution of the laws is as important as the legislation of law. The framers of the Indian Constitution had taken into consideration all these aspects while framing the Indian Constitution and under articles 129 and 215 of the Constitution of India the Supreme Court of India and high courts have been declared courts of records. The Supreme Court of India as well as various high courts have further interpreted the codified law of Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 and this expounding of law has been dealt with in detail in this edition of the book. The apex court has categorically laid down that the principles of codified law of Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 cannot put fetters on the discretion to be exercised by the highest court while imposing the sentence. The law of contempt though required to be used sparingly, has been used of late more vigorously in the era beginning from 1990 onwards. The book has been divided into various chapters. Every chapter has been prepared meticulously taking into consideration the entire case law on the subject available as laid down by the Supreme Court of India as well as various high courts. The judges, lawyers and students of law can safely treat the book as a standard reference book. The only suggestion that the reviewer would like to add is that the author could elaborate on the subject that “the truth is no defence under the Contempt of Court laws”. In various advanced countries truth is a defence in contempt proceedings and the same is required to be brought in the Indian law. The revising author, Justice V.K. Mehrotra (Retd.) definitely has taken great pains in revising this edition and has left an indelible mark on this classic edition.

*Rajiv Sharma**

* Senior Advocate, High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.