

S.C. GHOSH'S PRINCIPLES & FORMS OF PLEADING (4th ed. 1984). By Salil K. Roy Chowdhury and H.K. Saharay. Eastern Law House Pvt. Ltd., 54 Ganesh Chunder Avenue, Calcutta-700-013. Pp. [116]+1322. Price Rs. 175: £14: \$28.

THIS IS a comprehensive work on pleading.¹ Part I of the book gives the history of pleadings during different periods in India starting with the Hindu period. Part II deals with principles of pleading. Part III contains forms of petitions and applications while part IV sets out forms of pleading in a large variety of suits.

Pleadings by and large lack precision and clarity all over the country notwithstanding the efforts made by the courts from time to time to improve this state of affairs. In several parts of the country verification is done casually without specifying what are facts and what are legal submissions and no attempt is made to distinguish facts based on personal knowledge from those based on information, disclosing the source of information. Courts are by far indulgent to the Bar and refrain from taking too serious a view of shortcomings in pleadings except in rare cases. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer reflects the attitude of the judiciary in *S.B. Noronah's case*² where he observes that pleadings are not statutes and legalism is not verbalism. Commonsense should not be kept in cold storage when pleadings are construed. This does not, however, relieve the lawyer of his responsibility in drafting pleadings meticulously. A thorough knowledge of the law of pleadings and familiarity with the forms is a must for every lawyer. Drafting is an art, the quality depending on the skill of the artist. Although it may not be possible for everyone to become an expert in the art of pleading, it is open to one and all to give his best.

The editors have covered a large volume of case law on the subject, making the book authentic and useful for the practitioner. Almost all varieties of litigation under various Acts are covered including the Arbitration Act, Companies Act and Representation of the People Act. The writ jurisdiction of the High Courts and Supreme Court has been given due coverage. The book will serve as good guide for all legal practitioners and prove particularly valuable for freshers in the profession.

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1. *S.C. Ghosh's Principles & Forms of Pleading* (4th ed. 1984).

2. *S.B. Noronah v. Prem Kumari Khanna*, A.I.R. 1980 S.C. 193.

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