

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF INDIA (6th ed. 1984). By V.D. Mahajan.
Eastern Book Company, Lucknow. Pp. 570. Price Rs. 45.

MANY WRITERS have produced books on Indian Constitution, but only a few have come out with standard works. The work¹ under review is a text-book primarily meant for LL.B. and LL.M. students of Indian universities. It contains 40 chapters arranged in consonance with the scheme of the Constitution.

The author has taken pains to give at the outset the text or summary of relevant articles of each topic and then to explain implications thereof with reference to constitutional documents, history, judicial dicta and comparable provisions of other constitutions and their interpretation. But he has failed to exercise his right to express his own views on various constitutional problems with adequate reasoning. Perhaps, it could have been more useful and enlightening had he projected his views on future implications of the problems and issues of relationship between directive principles and fundamental rights, independence of judiciary, position of the President *vis-a-vis* Prime Minister and the role of governors in Centre-state relations, *etc.*

There is no denying the fact that the author has undertaken a stupendous task of incorporating a large number of cases, including some latest ones, in footnotes. However, there are certain glaring omissions.² A more detailed discussion of leading cases would have added to the merit of the work.

Further, the book suffers from a major drawback, that is, incomplete footnotes. The author, by and large, has not quoted the sources from where he has taken views of various jurists and academic lawyers.³ The extensive and complete footnotes would have been more useful to enable those interested in pursuing further indepth studies.

Despite all these weaknesses and inadequacies the merit of the book lies in that it has been written in a very simple language and the author has intelligently, carefully and rightly blended the theme and material in the book. In the end constitutional amendments from 1951 to 1983 are properly presented by discussing them in nutshell. These amendments reflect the changing dimensions of the Constitution to keep pace with the changing values of Indian society.

1. V.D. Mahajan, *Constitutional Law of India* (6th ed. 1984).

2. *E.g.*, *Francis Coralie Mullin v. Union Territory of Delhi*, A.I.R. 1981 S.C. 746; *Kirit Kumar v. Union of India*, A.I.R. 1981 S.C. 1621; *A.V. Nachane v. Union of India*, A.I.R. 1982 S.C. 1126.

3. *E.g.*, at page 7, *supra* note 1, the author has given the views of K.C. Wheare, but he has not quoted the source. Similarly, he has presented the views of M.P. Jain, Paras Diwan and Granville Austin at page 20, but he has failed to give the sources.

General index in detail further makes the task of legal academics easier to locate and consult relevant matter in the book.

On the whole, the book is useful to law students, legal practitioners and any other person interested in the study of the Constitution.

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