

U. P. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES ACT 1965 (3rd ed. 1987). By Mahavir Singh. Eastern Book Co., Lucknow. Pp. xii+988. Price Rs. 225.

IT IS a pleasure to see a full-fledged commentary on the U. P. Co-operative Societies Act 1965 discussing all the case law, giving all the Acts, and setting out in the appendices rules made under the Act and other related enactments. That this commentary is in Hindi and has come up now to the third edition is proof of the widespread use of Hindi in law in the State of U.P. In Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan also Hindi is widely used in law.

To read the commentary is to be convinced that Hindi can be used to explain the law. From a long-range point of view it has been realised that everyone cannot be expected to read and understand the law in English and therefore the use of English and Hindi has to continue for the exposition of law as long as it is necessary. If a guess may be ventured, it is likely that the country will have to be bilingual or even trilingual in each state for all times to come. In this respect India is not alone. Other countries like Canada, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Belgium, USSR, etc., use different languages in different parts of the country and all of them are understood in the country as a whole.

The U. P. Co-operative Societies Act is a leading statute in this field of law. The aim of the Act is to enable the co-operative societies and its members to manage their own affairs without having to go to a court of law. Decision of disputes by the arbitration of the registrar is effective. Indeed, section 46 of the Arbitration Act 1940 recognises such statutory arbitrations and offers to help them by supplementing their provisions. But to a large extent the Co-operative Societies Acts contain their own provisions for decision of disputes and do not need help of the Arbitration Act. Such well-developed legislation needs to be well understood. Most of the members and managers of the co-operative societies are ordinary people, not well versed in English.

The need for a Hindi book fully translating the Act, rules, related enactments and explaining their meaning in Hindi, has been met fully by this book. The more one reads it the more one is convinced that law can be as fully explained to the ordinary readers in Hindi as in English. The fear entertained by some people as to how law can be explained in Hindi will disappear when they read a book like this. Explanation of the sections, their analysis and discussion in the light of case law in this book are competent and full. Below every section is given a list of headings under which the commentary is divided. This makes reference easy. The printing and get up of the book is very good indeed.

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