

BOOK REVIEWS

MRTP LAW : PRINCIPLES, PROVISIONS AND CASES (1992). By D.P.S. Verma. Manas Publications, Delhi. Pp. viii+9-15+279. Price Rs. 110.

AS ITS title discloses, the book under review¹ “seeks to explain the major principles and provisions relating to the MRTP Act.”² It also covers the Rules and Regulations under the Act as amended upto October 1992 and attempts to analyse major cases decided by the MRTP Commission and the Supreme Court. In the words of the author, “the book is intended to be a simple exercise and complete treatment of this fast growing branch of business and consumer law”.^{2a}

The book is divided into nine self-contained chapters. Chapter 1 titled “Origin and Evolution” highlights the major findings of the Monopolies Inquiry Commission (MIC) as set out in its Report.³ The author also deals with the Monopolies Act 1969 and major amendments in the Act. The changes brought about by the latest MRTP (Amendment) Act 1991 have been noted and analysed.⁴

Chapter 2 covers Public Sector Undertakings’. In this regard, the author analyses three important cases, viz., the *Union Carbide* case,⁵ the *Travancore Cochin Chemicals* case⁶ and the *Punjab Tractors* case.⁷

Chapter 3 probes the working of the MRTP Commission. Commenting on this, the author points out:

With the various liberalisation measures introduced during the Eighties for the rapid industrial growth, the focus of the Commission’s activity has shifted from the prevention of concentration of economic power to the regulation of restrictive and unfair trade practices and the protection of consumer interest.⁸

Cases handled by the MRTP Commission and disposal of applications for issuing temporary injunctions under section 12A and awarding of compensation

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1. D.P.S. Verma, *MRTP Law : Principles, Provisions and Cases* (1992).
 2. *Id.*, preface, p. vii.
 - 2a. *Id.* at viii.
 3. Govt. of India, *Report of the Monopolies Inquiry Commission* (1965). *Id.* at 4.
 4. *Id.* at 13.
 5. *Association of Plastic Manufacturers v. Union Carbide India Ltd.* (R.T.P. Inquiry No. 29 of 1977, order dated 23.10.1978).
 6. *In re Travancore Cochin Chemicals Ltd.* (RTP Inquiry No.44 of 1975, order dated 23.1.1976); 1976 Tax L.R. 1739.
 7. *In re Punjab Tractors Ltd.* (RTP Inquiry No. 12 of 1982, order dated 21.2.1982).
 8. *Supra* note 1 at 52.

under section 12B of the MRTP Act have been shown in tabular form for the period 1985-1990.⁹

In chapter 4 the author takes into account the concentration of economic power. The concept and regulation of monopolistic trade practices, restrictive trade practices, and unfair trade practices have been elucidated in chapters 5,6,7 respectively. The author has explained the role of government and consumers in chapter 8. The grounds and procedure for filing appeal, have been dealt with in chapter 9. This chapter also deals with prosecutions.

The set of questions at the end of each chapter to test the reader's understanding of the subject may prove valuable to him. In addition, the book also contains a useful bibliography. The case index and subject index may prove helpful to the reader as it saves time in locating a case law or a topic of particular interest.

The author has ably explained each topic set out under the nine chapters in an elucidating manner. The use of simple and absorbing language, saves the reader from the intricate complexities of words and law jargons.

The book is well made out for all those concerned with the law, business and consumer protection. Even a layman will find it very helpful in understanding the working of the MRTP Commission, the MRTP law and matters relating to the protection of consumer's interest. The fact that the author has been associated with the MRTP Commission for over three years, adds practical value to the academic aspects of the book.

The book is a welcome addition to the books available on the subject. It is moderately priced and will be conveniently affordable by all the students, researchers and lawmen.

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9. *Id.* at 53.

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