



DR. M. V. N. MURTHY
(1923-1983)

It is with deep regret I record the sudden passing away of Dr. M. V. N. Murthy, Retired Deputy Director General, Geological Survey of India, on 12th June, 1983.

Mysore Venkata Narayana Murthy was born on 4th May 1923 and had his early education in Mysore. He joined the Central College, Bangalore in 1940 and secured the B.Sc. (Hons.) degree in Geology with distinction, winning the Hanu-mappa Gold Medal. Subsequently he obtained the A.I.I.Sc. from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He also served as a lecturer in the St. Philomena College, Mysore for a short period.

In 1946, he went to Glasgow supported by a Government of India scholarship. He worked with G. W. Tyrrell and obtained Ph.D. degree for his thesis on the 'Comptonite Dyke Rocks from Innishowen, County Donegal, Ireland'.

On his return from the U. K. he joined the Geological Survey of India in 1949 as an Assistant Geologist and retired from the Survey in 1981, as Deputy Director General in charge of the Air-borne Mineral Surveys Division.

Dr. Murthy started his career in the Survey examining the Dudhi Tehsil area, Mirzapur District, U. P. He then joined the Central Petrological Laboratories of the Survey and carried out several research projects of important petrological significance. His work in the Laboratories was enriched by his experience in the Laboratories of the Canadian Geological Survey where he underwent training for three years. His early work in the Laboratories were on studies of the granites of Dudhi and on clouded feldspar in the dolerite dykes of Mysore. He initiated a number of research projects, the results of which published in the various publications of the Survey which are a testimony to his zeal for research. He was an able organiser, be it an exhibition, workshop, symposia or a project of public interest. He implemented the scheme of making 'The Layman Mineral Conscious' with great enthusiasm. His studies on corona structures and on zircons are well known.

In 1966 he became a Director and posted to Shillong. There he organised mapping, mineral exploration and expedition programmes. One of the important studies carried out during that period was the integrated studies on the Brahmaputra Valley, a subject on which he organised a Seminar in 1970. He later guided the mapping and mineral exploration programmes in Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Murthy became Deputy Director General in 1974, when he was posted to Hyderabad. His dynamism in organising the various activities of the Survey on its completion of 125 years of service to the Nation was superb. His method of work in identifying latent power in individual officers and guidance to collective work was extraordinary. He encouraged team work in the Survey. The collaborative arrangements for research output by various organisations was evident during the Seminar on Archaean Geochemistry in 1977.

Dr. Murthy's innovations are many. He had great abilities to impress people and influence the policies of the Survey. He never used to be tired of work and encouraged many officers pursuing research and higher degree. Not a little of his encouragement goes to the success of the drilling programme of the Survey on the East-Coast bauxite deposits which was finished ahead of schedule. His interest in ancient Indian heritage was tremendous though he was equally appreciative of modern developments. He was a powerful speaker and a hard task master.

Lately Dr. Murthy got interested in things of spiritual importance. He used to appreciate the teachings of the Upanishads. He desired that such methods as used in the age of Upanishads to be followed in our teaching institutions. He had a flare to speak to students at length. After his retirement he spent serving his aged parents and seeking spiritual enlightenment. He breathed his last on June 12, 1983. In his demise the geological fraternity has lost a great teacher, a capable organiser, an enthusiast of ancient Indian heritage and more than all a colourful personality. Dr. Murthy is survived by his aged parents, two sons, relatives and a large number of friends and admirers to mourn him.

Bangalore

S. V. P. IYENGAR

ANNOUNCEMENT

ROCKBURSTS: PREDICTION AND CONTROL

20 October 1983, LONDON

The one-day symposium, organized by the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy and co-sponsored by the Institution of Mining Engineers, will be held at the Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1, England, on 20 October, 1983. The aim of the symposium is to define the existing state of knowledge on the occurrence, prediction, control and monitoring of rockbursts.

All enquiries in connection with the symposium should be addressed to the Conference Office, the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, 44 Portland Place, London W1N 4BR (telephone: 01-580 3802; telex 261410 IMM G).

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Bangkok, Thailand, 5-8 December, 1983

An international conference organized by The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy and The Department of Mineral Resources, Government of Thailand, with the co-operation of the Thai Mining Association and Chulalongkorn University.

For further particulars contact: The Conference Office, The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, 44 Portland Place, London W1N 4BR.