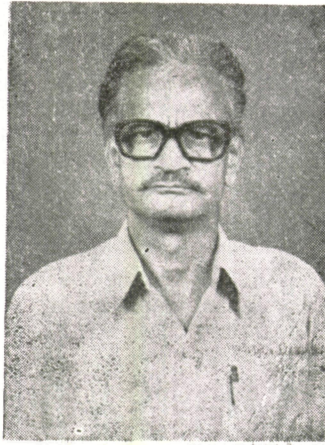


# Obituary



GANTY PRABHAKAR RAO  
1923-1989

It is with profound sorrow that I have to record the passing away of Dr. Ganty Prabhakar Rao, formerly of the Atomic Minerals Division (AMD), Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, on November, 9, 1989 at his home in Visakhapatnam at the age of 66 years.

Dr. Prabhakar Rao was the eldest son of late Prof. G. Jogi Somayajulu, a scholar of repute in Telugu and Sanskrit, and former Head of the Department of Telugu of the Andhra University, Waltair. After getting his M.Sc. degrees in Geology of the Andhra University in 1948 Dr. Rao served for about two years as an Assistant Lecturer in Geology at the College of Engineering, Kakinada, before joining the AMD on 3rd October, 1950, as an Assistant Geologist. He served the AMD for over 32 years in different capacities until his retirement on July 31, 1983 as an officer in overall-charge of the Western and Northeastern Circles. He was awarded the D.Sc. degree in Geology of the Andhra University in 1964 for his thesis on 'Some aspects of the placer deposits of South Kerala in relation to the geomorphic evolution of the West Coast of India', a work commended as 'a good example of the applications of sedimentological techniques to the elucidation of the factors influencing the extent and distribution of placer deposits of economic importance.'

Dr. Prabhakar Rao had a number of important contributions to his credit like: (a) the discovery of the Jaduguda uranium occurrence in 1951, (b) pioneering off-shore investigations using improvised pontoons along the Chavara coast of Kerala during early 1960s; and (c) guidance and supervision of time-bound crash programmes for evaluation of the heavy mineral sand deposits, both along the east and west coasts of India. The investigations led to the establishment of a large-scale heavy mineral sand processing industry at Chatrapur, Orissa of the Indian Rare Earths Ltd.

Apart from being a leading nuclear geologist, Dr. Rao was a multi-linguist having good command of Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Sanskrit, Tamil and Telugu as well as Russian, besides being a good orator in English.

Dr. Rao leaves behind his old mother, children and grandchildren. We convey our deep sympathies to the bereaved family.

*Atomic Minerals Division  
Bangalore*

R. DHANA RAJU