

In Chapter III on 'Positioning of Cooperatives in the Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation Era', the author has highlighted that instead of following an oppressive capitalism economy, it is better to follow the middle path of cooperative ideology which can guarantee us a brighter future for those who have not benefited in the economic prosperity of the country.

In Chapter IV on "The Road Ahead" the author has suggested various provisions and expects that these provisions will ensure not only autonomous and democratic functioning of the cooperatives but also ensure accountability of management of the members and other stakeholders. In the end, the author has quoted Gandhiji's apt remarks on cooperatives that 'the secret of successful cooperative effort is that the members must be honest and know the great merit of cooperation and it must have a definite progressive goal'.

Finally, it can be rightly stated that this book is a reference for those who are engaged in cooperative credit movement as well as those who are interested to know the status of various decisions taken by the government through various committees in facilitating the growth and achievement of cooperatives in the rural pockets of India. The authors should be highly appreciated as the book contains list of relevant annexures which simplifies the most difficult and contentious issues in a most comprehensive manner.

– Dr. B.K. Swain

**Crisis of Governance**, by G. Ramachandra Reddy, Serials Publications, New Delhi, ₹1195, Total Pages 298.

It is my understanding after thorough reading of this book, having highlighted the facts about the Constitution and intention of the Article 75 (3), that the entire Cabinet

should fall as a result of 'abuse of public office' by a minister or ministers in pursuance of policy decisions of the cabinet unless the said article gets suitably amended. Nor, does it mean that the entire cabinet needs to face criminal investigations for such policy decision which resulted in criminal offences.

The book consists of seven chapters including introduction and conclusion. The first chapter dealt with the Fundamentals of Governance. The aspects of Legacy of British Rule, Need for Human Rights and Civil Liberties, Right to Life and Property, Preventive Arrests by Police, Discretionary powers of executive under various laws, etc., were discussed in detail including the law of the jurists.

The second chapter deals with Anti-Corruption Law. The movement on Lokpal led by the Social Activist Anna Hazare and its need was discussed against corruption. The basic principle involved in Lokpal or the entire anti-corruption movement is Accountability for Corruption. According to the author, the political class confuse right understanding of accountability, it is accountable to people in periodic elections where a person gains or loses political power. This is 'Political Accountability' and it does not include 'legal accountability' for specific offence of corruption. Underlining the importance of 'right to recall' the author reiterated even before the expiry of 5 years of period, the multiple layers of accountability make democracy real. To combat the corruption five steps were suggested by the author. The first step is a good law, second an independent investigation agency, third one is effective enforcement of law, fourth being effective administrative action and the last being the effective pursuance of criminal investigation.

Third chapter was totally dedicated to the Social Activist Anna Hazare and his

contribution to the nation. The team members of Anna were charged with allegations against the senior IPS officer and the young IRS officer. Despite allegations on his core members, the contribution of Anna towards anti-corruption was appreciated by the author.

Fourth chapter deals with Accountability and Transparency. A law on accountability particularly on 'Political Accountability' is an urgent requirement in order to make Democracy purposeful and Governance meaningful. Accountability is the oxygen of good governance. Thus, citizen's accountability is all that our Democracy ensures through its laws and rules, as stated by the author. Transparency, the RTI Act, 2005 is touted as a panacea for all our problems in Democracy. This is not so. In practice, the exercise is limited to seeking information and obtaining the same from public authorities. The information is not in the 'public domain'.

Fifth chapter deals with Current Affairs. In this chapter however, commenting on the democracy the author stated 'Democracy is a game of numbers'. Therefore, everyone including our intellectuals have great belief in numbers to deliver goods. This is not a correct approach. Under this chapter author discussed threadbare current issues like population-police-judge ratio, police and people, misuse of police manpower, age determination of general VK Singh, etc.

In the sixth chapter the author discussed matters relating to secularism VS religion. Religion has nothing to do with morality and vice versa. Mahatma Gandhi said that 'those who say that Religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what Religion is'. Secularism is not atheistic or anti-religious. Secularism implies tolerance of not only religious belief of others but also political and other beliefs. In the name of secularism there is a tendency to banish religion into private domain. This is not right. After all, wherefrom

public values such as the following emanate?

- \* Action
- \* Fair action
- \* Efficiency
- \* Honest Impartiality

In the seventh chapter the author put forth his ideas on various issues like inaction, serious type to be criminalised, Right to Information, Law on Accountability, Right against injustice—new idea, government and judicial power is a public asset though intangible / invisible unlike land or factory, lawlessness of state, political party sponsored violence, etc.

The book is useful to researchers, policymakers and others interested about the democracy and collective responsibility of cabinet ministers and the role of legislature, executive and judiciary.

– Dr. Y. Bhaskar Rao

**Social Audit of Public Service Delivery in Karnataka**, by M. Vivekananda, S. Sreedharan and Malavika, Belavangalaya (Eds), 2012.

The book is based on the social audit carried out by Public Affairs Centre, Bangalore, on Public Service Delivery in Karnataka, based on the Citizen Report Card methodology developed by it. Interestingly based on the suggestion from the Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics, Government of Karnataka : Public Bus Transport, Food and Civil Supplies through Public Distribution System, the following services were covered under the study : Veterinary Health Care; Pension Schemes; Services of PHCs and District Hospitals; Government High Schools; and Nemmadi Kendras (documentation and issue of certificates). This social audit was based on user