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INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

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Agricultural Development in Hyderabad State, 1900-1956 : A Study in Economic History, B. K. Narayan, Keshav Prakashan, Secunderabad, 1960. Pp. xvi+115. Rs. 5.

This historical study into the economic conditions of the erstwhile Hyderabad State is based on an investigation conducted by the author for his doctoral thesis during 1955-58. After briefly describing in the opening chapter the physiographic features and the natural resources commanded by the region, the author gives a comparative account in the second chapter of the population trends from 1881 to 1951, the growth rate, density, rural-urban composition and the economic status of the population of the region and the country as a whole. Chapter 3 deals with the trends in land utilisation pattern, area under different crops, irrigated area by source, outturn of principal crops, livestock and agricultural implements. An appendix to this chapter briefly reproduces the targets and progress in agriculture in the erstwhile Hyderabad State during the First Plan period. Chapter 4 deals with the most important aspect of agricultural development of the State, namely, the agrarian reforms. In this chapter are described briefly the evolution of land tenures, the measures taken to abolish the feudal system in the State and the reforms introduced to solve the tenancy problems. The working of tenancy legislations enacted to provide security to the tenants, to regulate rents, etc., and measures of land reforms are also discussed. The last chapter examines the extent of debt burden on the agriculturists and the progress of co-operative credit institutions in the erstwhile State. In summing up, the author concludes that while the changes brought about in remodelling the agrarian structure are revolutionary, in the fields of agricultural production, per-acre yield, rural indebtedness, occupational pattern and employment situation, the changes are rather evolutionary.

Community Development Programme in India, Rajeshwar Dayal, Kitab Mahal, Allahabad, 1960. Pp. v+236. Rs. 10.

In recent years a vast amount of literature dealing with the various facets of the Community Development Programme in India has been published. But there is hardly any single book which gives a complete idea of the movement. The author has done well in keeping this purpose in view when writing this book.

The book has been divided into four parts running into seventeen chapters. The first part consisting of four chapters deals with the general aspects of the programme, namely, the concept of Community Development, its genesis, historical evolution, principal features, objectives, cost and staffing pattern, administrative set-up and the progress and broad targets of this programme during the first two Plans.

Part II outlining the programme proper is the most important portion of this book and consists of nine chapters. What exactly are the activities undertaken by these Projects ? How do they seek to bring about an improvement in agricultural productivity ? What is the role of Community Development Projects in fostering co-operative spirit in the countryside ? How far this programme helps to solve the problem of unemployment and under-employment in the countryside ? All these and many other related questions are sought to be answered in this part. It examines the training facilities available to the project personnel