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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Outlines of Dairy Technology, Sukumar De, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1980. Pp. xviii + 539. Rs. 25.50.

The book considers the salient aspects of the processing and manufacture of various types of milk and milk products. Divided into twelve chapters, the first Chapter of the book deals with the development of milk market industry in India, the factors affecting the composition of milk, its food and nutritive value, physico-chemical properties of milk constituents and of milk, microbiology of milk and the related aspects of manufacture, packaging, storage of pasteurized milk and its distribution and uses. Chapter 2 describes the methods of manufacture of special milks which include processed or fermented milk products. Chapters 3 to 10 describe the composition, the food and nutritive value, methods of manufacture, packaging, judging and grading, defects, their causes and prevention and uses of cream, butter, butteroil, ice cream, cheese, condensed milk, and dried milk and milk products. The last two chapters describe in detail the variety of ways in which milk is used for the preparation of indigenous products and the utilization of dairy by-products, their nutritive value, keeping quality, methods of production, and equipments used for the manufacture of these products. The book contains valuable scientific information on several aspects of the dairy industry. It is supplemented by illustrations and charts. The packaging of milk and milk products and the problems in the use of buffalo milk during manufacture and storage of various milk products are separately dealt with in two appendices. The book includes a list of books recommended for further reading. As a reference work on dairy technology, it will prove useful to students of dairy science and home science, teachers, researchers, plant managers and extension workers.

Anatomy of Rural Unemployment and Policy Prescriptions (A Macroscopic View), G. P. Mishra, Associated Publishing House, New Delhi-5, 1979, Pp. viii + 68. Rs. 15.00.

This monograph makes an attempt to comprehend the nature of rural unemployment in the context of the agrarian conditions of production and distribution prevailing in India on the basis of various studies and secondary data available on the subject. The introduction briefly reviews the strategies formulated for rural development in the past and points out their shortcomings. Divided into four chapters, the first chapter of the study discusses the operation of the process of production and distribution, cites the findings of a few micro studies dealing with the controversial issue whether the agrarian relations are still predominantly semi-feudal or capitalist and briefly describes the modes of employment in the existing agrarian social structure of rural India. The second chapter examines the distribution of land and the dimensions of rural unemployment based on analysis of data from the Sixteenth (1960-61) and Twentyseventh (1972-73) Rounds of the National Sample Survey. The third chapter discusses the employment policy adopted in the past during the Five-Year Plan periods and analyses its implications. The last chapter presents the summary and conclusions of the study.

The study observes that the characteristics of labour, commodity, inputs,

and credit markets refer to the operation of a process of production which indicate the interaction between a tendency to 'interdependence' and a tendency towards 'differentiation'. In a dual character of agrarian structure and production relations with the evolutionary process of capitalist development, the well-to-do (large) farmers constituting a little over 10 per cent of the total number of rural households commanded over a major part of the supply of scarce agricultural and other resources while a majority of the landless and poor peasant households having a numerical strength of 60 per cent of the total rural households have virtually negligible control over such resources. The existing distribution relations also correspond to or arise from the existing dual character of production relations—peasant and capitalist in Indian agriculture. The dual character of production relations and process reflects broadly a dual mode of employment creation—wage labour and family labour. While the wage labour mode of employment depends on the size and expansion of the capitalist sector, the family labour depends on the number of peasant farms and the size of farm in the economy. If a pool of labour force remains unemployed or under-employed, it would mean that the existing structure of agrarian relations in production restrains it from getting employment. The creation of employment opportunities is not mechanical but institutional in character. Given the land endowment situation, the unequal pattern of land distribution leads to the creation of unemployment and under-employment in the rural areas. The disaggregative picture of rural unemployment and under-employment shows that the landless and poor peasant households constitute a major part of the unemployed pool of the rural labour force. It concludes that the strategy of planning for rural employment based on the investment theory of growth and employment will not yield the socially desired end unless it responds to the agrarian conditions of production and distribution and reorients these conditions with a view to generating employment on a sustained basis in the rural areas.

From the Autobiography of Economic Theory and Other Reflections, Vikas Mishra, Kalyani Publishers, Ludhiana, 1980. Pp. viii + 169. Rs. 45.00.

The book contains a collection of seventeen papers which deal with certain basic methodological and contentual aspects of economy theory. These are written in a rather conversational, after-dinner speech style. As the blurb aptly puts it: "There is something novel as well as irritating about the very title of the book. This is scarcely less true of titles of many other papers included in the collection", such as 'The Vocabulary of Economics', 'Economics is a Bastard Science', 'Causation in Economics', 'Value Specification in Economic Theory', 'The Price-Specificity Illusion of the Demand-Supply Construct', 'The Economist as an Intellectual Dilettante', 'Possibilities of Relating the Study of Religious Consciousness to the Spirit of Economic Progress' and 'Re-viewing Hinduism and Economic Growth'. In addition to these abstruse subjects, the book deals with the nature, and theoretic-analytic consequences, of the concept, and technique, of equilibrium in economics, the possibility of a positive micro economics, reflections on economists

and on inflation, growth multiplier and critically appraises the writings of Charles and Zona Loomis on Marx and Max Weber. The last chapter of the book examines the pattern of planned investment in India and certain related aspects of the state of the Indian economy generally during the first four Five-Year Plan periods.

Small Industries and the Developing Economy in India, R. V. Rao, Concept Publishing Co., New Delhi-15, 1979. Pp. 210. Rs. 50.00.

The book examines the problems, policies, programmes and prospects of small industries in the development of the Indian economy. Within the compass of thirteen chapters, it provides rich information on the state of the small scale industrial sector. It starts with the definition of the concept of small industry and traces the development of ideas relating to small scale and rural industries. It then examines the role of cottage and small industries in a developing economy and describes the growth of small industries and the problems faced by them. This is followed by a brief discussion of the role of small industry in the industrialisation of Japan. It then reviews the functioning of Khadi and Village industries, handicrafts, sericulture, handloom industry and considers the problems faced by the industrial co-operatives. The study also examines the problem of financing of small industries. The importance of rural industrialisation, choice of appropriate technology, the progress, achievement and functioning of rural industries projects and the future of small industries are discussed in detail and suggestions are given for accelerating industrial growth in the rural areas. Since the initiation of planning, small industries are assigned a strategic role in Indian economic development. They accounted for 44 per cent of industrial employment and 40 per cent of the total industrial production. But much of their capacity is not fully utilized for want of sufficient imports of raw materials, poor management, low level of technology, low productivity, lack of quality control and the like, inequity in the distribution of raw materials and lack of funds. The Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956 clearly enunciated the objectives of the programmes for village and small scale industries. These are to (i) create immediate and permanent employment on a large scale at relatively smaller capital cost, (ii) meet a substantial part of the increased demand for consumer goods, (iii) facilitate fuller mobilization of local resources, of capital and skill, and (iv) integrate these industries with the rural economy on the one hand and large scale industry on the other. Thus the role of these industries has been envisaged more as complementary than competitive with the large scale industries sector. An important plank of the rural industrialisation programme is the improvement in the production techniques and organization of the existing rural industries. With improvement in techniques, these industries offer a promise of growing into an efficient and progressive decentralised sector of the economy and will mitigate to a great extent the problem of unemployment and under-employment in the country. Students of economics at the undergraduate level and the general reader will find this study very useful.