

AWAY FROM DUST AND DIN

MEMOIRS OF A GOVERNOR



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SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY

This is a rare book of constitutional and political significance. After the *Presidential Years* written by former President Mr. R. Venkataraman, this is the most authentic version about Governor's office and its functioning from the pen of a person who occupied the office of the Governor in one of the border States, Arunachal Pradesh, in the North-East.

Problems of the North-Eastern region are hardly discussed at the national level and much of it remain still unknown. Being the Governor as well as Chairman of the North-Eastern Council, the author had opportunities to study and analyse the intricate problems of the North-Eastern States in depth.

This book not only gives a brief description of the flora and fauna of this picturesque region, but reveals the various facets of the tribal culture and customs of people living there.

The book largely deals with constitutional and political developments, Governors, Presidential powers and also future of small States in the country. This is a most authentic, educative, informative and interesting document of the year.

7 Shri Surendranath Dwivedy, a senior Statesman, was born at village Khandasahi in Cuttack district, Orissa, on 11 February, 1913. He is a distinguished political leader and a veteran freedom fighter. He was the leader of the former Praja Socialist Party in Parliament for many years. He was member of Parliament from 1952-70; member of the Rajya Sabha (1952-1956) and Lok Sabha (1957-1970). During the last 65 years of his unbroken political career, he occupied many positions in different walks of life; the latest being the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh from 1991 to July 1993.

Shri Dwivedy is a writer of eminence and he has to his credit 20 books, both in Oriya and English. All his books generally deal with political affairs. One of his books in Oriya has received the Orissa Sahitya Academy Award. His first book in English - *Political Corruption in India*, published in 1966, jointly with Shri G.S. Bhargav, being first exposure of the kind, created a commotion in political circles. Amongst his other books — *Quest for Socialism*, *Fifty years struggle in India* and *Untold Story of August Revolution* have received quite a good national response.

Shri Dwivedy has left active politics and is not a member of any political party. He is the Chairman of the Bastia Memorial Trust, which has established a big workers' educational complex at Rourkela (Orissa). He is devoting his time mostly in social and educational activities. He is, at present, the Convenor of the National Committee for the Celebration of 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, of which Prime Minister is the Chairman.

Shri Dwivedy has put down his experience and thoughts on several constitutional and legal aspects pertaining to Governors, President and other relevant issues, in this book.



AWAY FROM DUST AND DIN

Memoirs Of A Governor

SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY



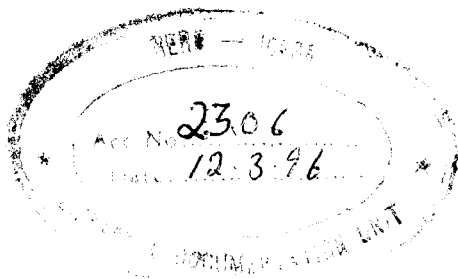
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Introduction

I took the office of Governor of Arunachal Pradesh as a part of national service. The State is located in the North-East frontier of our country. It is full of potentialities. An isolated and small tribal population, most backward and undeveloped, exposed to the vagaries of nature, inhabit the land. My tenure was short, but in some ways it was interesting and rewarding. Some of my close friends urged me to write about this little known part of our land and its people.

I have briefly narrated my experiences in this beautiful picturesque area; how I discharged my responsibilities as Governor and how I look at its future. I have also dealt with some constitutional and legal issues pertaining to small States and the Governors. It has resulted in the publication of this short book.

Since I have dealt with some constitutional issues, I thought it better to show my manuscript to some constitutional experts and noted lawyers.

I am thankful to Justice Ranganath Mishra, former Chief Justice of India, and now the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, for reading the manuscript and for giving many valuable suggestions. Regarding chapters 10 and 11, he says:

The views expressed are logical and do represent the stand taken by many stalwarts. After the amendment of the Constitution, making 'advice' binding on the Governor, perhaps the logic loses much of its force.

I do not accept this as the last word on the subject. I feel there is still room for debate and discussion on this issue. I, therefore, leave the chapters as they are.

Shri Subhash C. Kashyap, Ex-Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha, is a reputed constitutional expert on parliamentary affairs. He has been good enough to read the manuscript. He writes:

I have gone through the entire text very carefully. A very well written, highly readable, educative and interesting document coming from the pen of an elder statesman committed to the good of the people, integrity of the nation and some moral standards.

I had also the benefit of advice from my old colleague Shri D.D. Thakur, Ex-Governor of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. He had occupied high position in Jammu and Kashmir administration. He has great personal knowledge and experience of the administration of the special category states and is at present a very prominent lawyer of the Supreme Court. He was good enough to sit for long hours with me to read the chapters and in some cases enrich the text by citing some of the appropriate judgements of the Supreme Court and also interesting episodes. In fact, both of us selected the present title of the book from amongst the several others suggested.

I am also very greatly indebted to my old junior colleague, Dr. Hari Dev Sharma, Deputy Director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, who is in a way responsible to prompt me to write this book. The idea originated from him. He is very particular about correct use of words, citation of quotations and writing of names. As is usual with him, he has meticulously gone through the manuscript to make the book readable and perfect in all respects. In all my English books as in many other things, he has always extended his help with love. The language and contents are entirely mine, right or wrong, but he has given them a fresh look. He is an invaluable friend and I hope I would continue to get his support in future also.

I must thank Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao for sparing the time to read the chapter "The Challenging Task." He has been kind enough to permit me to publish his letter in full in the book.

Last, but not least, I must record my appreciation for the ungrudging service that my P.A. R.P. Rampal has rendered in the preparation of the manuscript. He has typed it as many times as was necessary. That is a rare quality considering the present times.

A word of thanks is also due to my publisher Shri S. Balwant of the Ajanta Books International for bringing out the book in record time.

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