

a bulky affair. Perhaps that is the reason why certain views on development policy have not been taken into consideration although precisely such anthologies lend themselves to documenting opposing scientific points of view.

The second volume approaches the food problem in developing countries at an interdisciplinary level. Here too, the editor, H.-D. Cremer, has succeeded in finding German and foreign experts as contributors in their respective fields. The volume first gives a detailed account of the world food problem and of the basics of food nutrition. This is followed by the question of food technology, of how to ascertain the situation of nutrition and of malnutrition and its consequences. The volume concludes with an account of various possible solutions and measures for improving the food situation. This anthology also presents the reader with a systematic documentation of contemporary research on this important problem.

Both volumes are meticulously edited and complete with numerous diagrams and index. They will doubtless become standard works in German on the problems of rural development and nutrition in developing countries. They will be of great help to scientists, experts on development policy, students and anyone interested in questions of development.

Wolfgang Quaisser

JAKOB WEBER: *Ländliche Kooperationen im regionalen Entwicklungsprozeß Indiens.* (Bonner Studien zur ländlichen Entwicklung in der Dritten Welt, Vol. 5). Saarbrücken - Fort Lauderdale: Breitenbach Publishers, 1982. 241 pages, DM 26.-.

The book deals with the impact of industrialization on rural areas and the role which a large cooperative society plays in improving agriculture and living standards of rural people. The area under observation is in Chotanagpur Division in South Bihar, a densely populated area with many Adivasi inhabitants. It is located close to the industrial centre of Ranchi. The underlying hypotheses of the study are as follows:

- Industrialization influences positively incomes and market integration of the rural society.
- The impact of industrialization decreases with the distance from the industrial centre.
- Cooperative activities strengthen the positive impact of industrialization.
- A non-governmental cooperative society is particularly suitable for motivating and mobilizing the rural people.

The cooperative society studies is the Chotanagpur Catholic Mission Co-operative Credit Society (CCCS), which was founded in 1909 and has a total membership of 50 000. Membership is open only to household heads of Cath-

olic faith, but some services are offered also to non-Catholics. The main parts of the study include

- a) the observation of the activities of the cooperative society, especially in the fields of credit and savings and of agricultural training and extension,
- b) interviews with 400 household heads (half of them are not members of the cooperative society) in six villages differing from each other as regards distance from the industrial centre and level of cooperative activities.

As little as the hypotheses are new and original, as little are the results unexpected. The cooperative members have attained a higher standard of living, largely due to their stronger market integration. No major differences, however, were observed between cooperative members and members of non-Christian communities with respect to sociopsychological characteristics, such as motivation or planning capability. The impact of industrialization on rural areas and people corresponds largely to the wellknown pattern. There is more intensive farming close to the town than in distant areas. An individualization process takes place in the village society. On the other hand, no increase of dualism or of marginalization of social groups was found in this case.

The main value of the book is in the description of the area under observation and of the cooperative activities within a very poor community. Otherwise the book cannot really be recommended, and this mainly because of the poor presentation of the framework of the empirical study. The book starts with an introduction to the problem and a development of the hypotheses in which many ideas are inconclusive and some statements are clearly false. The language in sections 1 and 2 is particularly clumsy, the quotation of references is sometimes incorrect, and the whole book abounds with typing errors. It is surprising that neither the distinguished Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn, which accepted the study as a Ph.D. dissertation, nor the editors of the series nor the publishers had any objections to a publication in the present form. One is left with the impression that they just did not look closely enough into the text.

Peter von Blanckenburg

JACQUES POUCHEPADASS (ed.): *Caste et classe en Asie du sud*. (Collection Purusartha no. 6). Paris: Editions de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, 1982. 306 pages, 130 F.

As J. Pouchepadass mentions in his presentation, to deal with caste and class involves the whole social evolution of India. The different authors succeed in emphasizing the complexity of such matters.

Alice Thorner gives us a summary of the debate on classes and modes of