

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, IP MASSEY (Fourth Edition, Eastern Law Book Company, 1995; Price: Indian Rupees 100).

THIS is the fourth edition of what has become a leading text on Indian Administrative Law. It is also testimony to the high standards that are now reached by Indian legal scholarship. Gone are the days when all that came out of India relating to law were ponderous commentaries on legislation on various subjects. These commentaries were largely meant for practitioners. They continue to come and, in areas where the law in Singapore and Malaysia are based on such Indian legislation, continue to serve a useful function for the practitioner. But, legal literature, they were not. Works, such as Massey on Administrative Law, indicate that university teachers in that country can match up with the best in the world in producing works of quality. Massey's book is fascinating in that it deals with an area of law that has developed rapidly in all Commonwealth jurisdictions in a manner that takes into account the Indian social and political context in which the law operates and develops. As such, it is of great relevance to the developing states of the Commonwealth

in showing what courts can do in protecting rights which the modern welfare state owes the citizen. In many areas, such as public interest litigation, courts of developed states will have much to learn from the bold solutions advanced by the Indian courts. The Indian courts have engaged in startling and imaginative innovations in many areas. Some cases like the *Maneka Gandhi* case and the *Mohinder Gill* case should be part of the jurisprudence of not only administrative law but of human rights as well and, hence, are relevant to all legal systems, both of developed and developing states. Massey deals with these cases with admirable competence and brings a deep knowledge of both American as well as English and Commonwealth developments to bear on the subject. Often, the author deals with the position in the civil law systems as well. An example is his treatment of the French notion of imprevision in administrative contracts. The lucidly written chapter on public interest litigation indicates the responsiveness of the Indian Supreme Court to social issues. The comparative lawyer of the subject will find a rich minefield of information and analysis in the pages of this book. A thought provoking introduction by Professor Upendra Baxi, a noted Indian scholar, precedes the work. The book deserves an international readership and is produced so well. Eastern Book Company is now earning a reputation for good quality production of legal texts on Indian law.

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