

A TREATISE ON THE LAW RELATING TO BRIBERY & CORRUPTION. By R. K. Soonavala. [Bombay: Tripathi. 1964. xl + 600 pp. (incl. index). Rs. 25.00]

The author of this book is already well-known for his many books ranging from the principles of Advocacy to Indian Company Law. All his books are centered on Indian experiences and they have all revealed an understanding of the problems that face a busy practitioner. This treatise on the law relating to bribery and corruption is in keeping with all that is best in the Soonavala tradition.

The law relating to bribery and corruption in India, despite recent efforts to the contrary, is still found embedded in many different statutes. This book is a welcome first effort as a collection of the whole state law on this subject. Its usefulness is enhanced by an incisive commentary on statutory provisions and the inclusion of the relevant Indian and English case law.

The technique adopted by the author is to discuss section by section in the order they occur in the statute. Matters of even the minutest detail are not excluded as is seen by the discussion on the use to be made of the preamble and the headings of sections. The author prefers to refer the reader to rather than discuss case law. The law is set out in the form of propositions and in clear lucid terms. This is all in the tradition of books designed for the practitioner only.

The author is not only concerned with statutes specially enacted to combat bribery and corruption. He is also concerned with those general anti-bribery provisions found in the criminal law. The author is less than comprehensive in his treatment of these "adjunct" portions presumably because they are all adequately covered by other treatises such as those on the Penal Code. But where the general and special provisions overlap (*e.g.* at p. 70) the author's treatment is exhaustive and useful.

The book contains appendices setting out the provisions of the Pakistan and Malayan statutes on the subject. There is no attempt to discuss the case law in those countries and no comparative study has been attempted. But this is not to state that the book will not be of use to practitioners throughout Malaysia.

Special statutes relating to bribery and corruption are recent developments in legislation in countries in our part of the world. They are partly the result of the increasing opportunities for malpractice by officials caused by increasing governmental activities in spheres hitherto untouched. A book of this kind fulfils a pressing need.

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