

CRISIS OF GOVERNANCE

After the publication of the writings of Padma Bhusan Shri P. S. Appu by the Sahitya Samsad as *The Appu Papers* a substantial corpus of his archives was made available by Shri Appu. Initially the plan had been to publish a revised second edition of *The Appu Papers* incorporating material that could not be included in the first. However, what came was a volume by itself, constituting a supplement to the first publication. Besides, covering in depth Shri Appu's abiding concern with land reforms, these writings deal with a central concern : the crisis of governance in India that has assumed alarming proportions over the past few decades. Some of his incisive insights into the situation have appeared in the earlier volume. Despite adhering scrupulously to political neutrality as a civil servant,. Shri Appu always had the courage to speak out whenever he saw the executive arm of government callously disregarding public interest in favour of private profit ignoring constitutional prescriptions.

Shri Appu was an admirable example of courage and principle. He was a true leader orienting his juniors towards a pro-people accountable and transparent public service delivery system. The reader is also enlightened by an ever alert mind of an extremely bright practicing Development Economist. The volume has three very important civil servants writing the Foreword, the Introduction and the Preface, individuals to whom their junior colleagues can look up in terms of integrity, straightforwardness and commitment to public service. These papers will be of great interest to civil society activists besides providing valuable guidance to all those committed to public service and good governance.

