
DEATH DUTIES

BY

B. R. MISRA

M.A., Ph.D. (Lond.), D.Sc. Econ. (Lond.), LL.B.



BENARES

KISHORE & BROS.

1945

Re. 1/-

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THE CASE STATED

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M.A., Ph D. (LOND), D.SC. ECON. (LOND), LL.B.,

*Professor and Head of the Departments of Economics
and Commerce, Benares Hindu University*

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1945

By the Same Author

1. *Indian Provincial Finance*

(Oxford University Press)

2. *Land Revenue Policy*

(Nand Kishore & Bros. Benares)

To
R and S
To whose friendship I
owe so many happy hours

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PREFACE

Social security is one of the most important objectives of economic planning. It cannot be achieved unless the revenue of the State is substantially increased. Whatever the shape of the Indian Government in the postwar period, taxation must be kept up at a high level. The economic development of India and measures of social security both depend upon it.

The publication of the second part of the *Bombay Plan* advocating death duties has made the task of the Government easier for the levy of death duties as the opposition against them generally comes from the rich classes. If the death duty legislation is drawn up with the approval of an influential majority and if it is in harmony with the accepted economic and social concepts of the day, it will go down to the posterity as 'a good, just and moral tax'. It will provoke the minimum of discontent and popular dissatisfaction if the Government can take the public into confidence by boldly declaring that the proceeds of the duty shall be 'ear-marked' for providing social security services to the hunger-stricken millions of India.

The object of this monograph is to present some of the broad social and economic principles underlying death duties. The Italian economist Rignano's

The Social Significance of Death Duties (with an introduction by Lord Stamp) and Shultz's *The Taxation of Inheritance* contain useful information on this subject from various points of view. This monograph is mainly a summary and restatement of ideas which are the subject of agreement among professional economists.

Benares Hindu University
January 20, 1945

B. R. MISRA

WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

1. **Indian Provincial Finance** (1942) Rs. 7/8/-
(Oxford University Press)

"Dr. Misra's study of the development and problems of provincial finance in India is of great topical as well as of permanent academic interest..... His recommendations will, no doubt, provoke criticism and controversy, but it can at least be said that they represent the honest conclusions and judgments of a well-informed student of India's economic and financial problems". (Dr. Vera Anstey, London.)

"The work embodying the doctorate Thesis of Professor Misra, fills a distinct gap in the literature on Indian Finance." (*Hindu*, Madras)

2. **Land Revenue Policy in the United Provinces.**
(1942) Price Rs. 5/-

"I do not think that any book of that type has been issued in recent years. It is admirably lucid and gives a very good summary of what is a complicated system." (Mr. M. G. M. Harper, C.I.E., I.C.S., lately Senior Member, Board of Revenue, U.P.)

"It is lucid and brings together an enormous amount of material that is not only difficult to get at but which is so often written in such a way as to confuse issues. On the historic side, I think the book is a brilliant effort and I fancy it will remain for a long time a first class reference book on the subject. It is a first class piece of work."

(Dr. Harold H Mann, England.)

"This is a well-written and balanced monograph on one of the most thorny problems of Indian administration." (*The Economic Journal*)

"This erudite and illuminating volume will be enjoyed by all students of Indian Economics."

(*Amrit Bazar Patrika*)
