

Obituary

SUKHAMOY CHAKRAVARTY

(1934–1990)

Sukhamoy Chakravarty, one of India's ablest economists, died in August 1990. He was still relatively young, but in his lifetime he made major contributions to economic policymaking in India, to economic theory, and to U.S.-India relationships. He was Professor of Economics at Delhi University, a member of the Planning Commission for many years, and then Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and V. P. Singh. His skills and qualities of objectivity were recognized first by leaders of the Congress Party and then by the victorious opposition. He also served in 1983–85 as chairman of the committee to examine India's monetary system and chairman of the India Council of Social Science Research.

Apart from his policymaking work, he made significant contributions to economic analysis and theory. He was of the distinguished postwar generation of Indian economists who made major contributions to the theory of growth and of investment planning, but his work extended to other nontheoretical aspects of economics. His last book, *Development Planning: The Indian Experience* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987), was a history and analysis of the process of development planning in India from independence until 1986.

Chakravarty was honored for his scholarly work with several prestigious awards in India and with invitations to serve as Guest Professor or lecturer at the London School of Economics, Oxford and Cambridge Universities in England, and Erasmus University in the Netherlands, where he had written his dissertation under Nobel laureate Jan Tinbergen. He was also elected fellow of the World Council of the Econometric Society and Vice President and Honorary President of the International Economic Association. His relationship with American economists goes back many years, to the days when he was associated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He also had served as co-chairman of the Indo-U.S. Subcommittee for Education and Culture.

For those who knew Chakravarty, his continued availability to, and contacts with, old friends who visited India were striking. Perhaps his outstanding characteristic was his courage. For the last decade of his life, he suffered from a serious heart disability that could be fatal at any time. In spite of this, he pursued an active career as planner, advisor, and writer, even though he knew the risks. He felt that through his work he could contribute to India's well-being, and this remained a main goal of his life.

His death is a great loss for India, for the economics profession, and for his friends around the world.

GEORGE ROSEN
University of Chicago

Erratum

The *Journal* regrets that the obituary of Edwin O. Reischauer (*JAS* 50:1) misstated the name of his widow. She is Haru Matsukata Reischauer.