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Editorial Notes

Transport

One of the fundamental needs of mankind that is most often served by engineering ingenuity is provision of facilities for quick transport—Transport by land, sea and air. Planning for transport involves not only the planning of vehicles, vessels and craft but also the Highways, Railways, Waterways and Runways. In this issue we have for consideration articles on improvement of Highways and Navigable Channels. Mr. S. N. Gupta deals with the Highways and Mr. Kapil Bhattacharya on schemes for improving the navigability of the Hooghly.

The acute shortage of food has forced on us the need to import food; and for this purpose to deepen the navigable channels to enable food carrying vessels of deep draft to enter the port; otherwise to establish subsidiary ports where such vessels may be partially unloaded to reduce the draft.

The shortage of foreign exchange has also impressed on us the need to carry goods in our own ships and also to build our own ships. The targets set in previous planning for owning of shipping space has been achieved by acquiring ships from abroad. But this is not wholly satisfactory as much foreign exchange has been lost in the process. Replacement of many of these secondhand vessels will in due course be necessary and it is therefore desirable that every effort be made to establish early enough all the shipyards that would be required to construct all the vessels needed for replacement. As the shipping trade is on the increase, the number of vessels needed and their size is also increasing. This consideration must be kept in mind by all concerned in the country's planning schemes and targets.

Indian Roads Congress

We are glad to note that at the 28th Session of the Indian Roads Congress held at Jaipur, in November, 1964, Professor S. R. Mehera, Director of the Central Road Research Institute made forceful reference in his Presidential Address to the types of Road Development urgently needed and their financial requirements, the need for administrators with proficiency in Engineering Science and Technology, the role of Research Laboratories and application of results of research to Road Projects, the need and problems of Education in Highway Engineering, of Mechanisation, Road Architecture, Road Transport, Road Safety and of the need for amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act to facilitate long distance haulage of goods.

All these subjects are engaging the attention of Engineers throughout India, and it is hoped that the address will have its intended effect on the development of the country in due course of time.

Inventions

We are glad to note that the Government is giving much encouragement by offer of prizes and monetary contributions to inventors for exercising their ingenuity. We have received an interesting booklet from the Inventions Promotion Board giving a list of inventions and the contributions given to the inventors.

We much appreciate the assistance thus given to about 280 Indian Inventors towards furthering about 320 inventions, and bring to the notice of our readers the help that they could obtain by application to this munificent organisation.