

Notes & News.

GOVERNING BODY OF C.S.I.R. MEETS.

A Committee to serve as the focal point of thought on scientific problems at high altitude and in the Himalayan region and the establishment of a Design and Engineering Unit for providing engineering assistance to National Laboratories in the translation of laboratory results to industrial practice are some of the important proposals accepted by the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research at its meeting at New Delhi on March 24, 1963 today under the presidency of the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.

The meeting placed on record its deep sense of loss at the death of Lala Shri Ram who was associated with the Board and the Governing Body of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research from the very inception.

DESIGN AND ENGINEERING UNIT.

The need for a unit for design and development was felt in order to make it easy for the industry to exploit the processes developed by the National Laboratories. The functions of the unit will include the evaluation of the processes developed in the national laboratories from the commercial point of view, designing of pilot and industrial plants based on these processes and preparation of project reports including engineering designs for implementation of the projects.

The unit will act as "consulting engineers" to the Director General, Scientific and Industrial Research and the national laboratories. The existing design and engineering facilities available in the various national laboratories will be strengthened.

The unit will, in the initial stages, lay emphasis on the mechanical and chemical engineering design problems.

The working out of the details of the unit has been entrusted to the Director-General, Scientific & Industrial Research.

14-MAN COMMITTEE.

A 14-man Committee, headed by Dr. S. Hussain Zaheer, Director-General, Scientific and Industrial Research, was constituted to consider the various scientific problems of the Himalayan region and to formulate proposals for their solution.

DEFENCE NEEDS.

The Governing Body noted with satisfaction that the national laboratories have been geared to defence requirements and are working in close collaboration with defence establishments.

About 140 problems of defence interest have been under investigation and production has been started on pilot plant scale on a variety of items.

SUBSTITUTE MATERIALS.

The Governing Body also accepted a proposal to undertake a detailed study to find indigenous materials for substituting copper, tin, zinc and such other metals for which India is depending mainly on imports. The matter has assumed importance in view of the emergency and defence needs for these metals.

In view of the rapid expansion of the aluminium industry in India, the extended application of aluminium and aluminium alloys to replace imported metals and alloys would be given important consideration.

A Committee consisting of Dr. B. R. Nijhawan, Dr. B. D. Kalelkar, Dr. K. N. P. Rao and Dr. R. V. Thamahkar will make a study of the subject.

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