

## EDITORIAL

India is a rural based country and at the present moment none will differ with the fact that the destiny of India depends on how fast we can transfer, diffuse the appropriate technology for the benefit of the vast majority of our population. There is no denying of the fact that even after 30 years of Independence our planners, technologists, educationists, politicians, and the national government have failed miserably to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter to 60% of our population. If we have a close look at the society as a whole we will find a section amassing huge wealth of all sorts whereas majority has remained on lookers and could not participate in the developmental plan and could not live as dignified individuals.

The changed situation in the country have generated high hopes amongst the people all over the country and the Governments at the States and Centre have rightly launched intensive programmes in the areas of agri-

culture, rural industries, health and sanitation, food for work etc. and adopted other measures for employment generation.

Now to analyse the problems of our rural development one can consider three societies : (1) the Societies of the industrialized countries (or Western Society) (2) the elite society of developing countries and (3) the rural poor of those countries ( the neediest ) and explore the needs of these societies and how can our National Institutions, Universities of education, science and technology generate potential resources and technology and satisfy the wants. With a close observation it will be revealed that the Westernised National Institutions and their product have very little or no linkage either with the needs of the rural poor or with the traditional technologies upon which the rural poor depends. This vital missing link is the crux of the problem of generating appropriate technologies.

We belong to this elitist class and it is for our survival and for maintaining peace and tranquility in our countryside and to provide a tension free life to our future generation that we must be conscious and be up and doing right now to generate, devise and implement appropriate technology and create suitable mechanism and infrastructure to diffuse such technology and arrange for equitable distribution of the fruits of our development plans. Reference may be made in this respect to the work done by "ASTRA" ( application of Science and Technology for rural area) in Karnataka State thro' the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Our Association hosts this conference on rural development at a very crucial juncture of our development when everything, the plans, economy, the fiscal policy are being viewed from a newer perspective the aim being to provide food and clothing and

dignified life to the down-trodden hungry millions and to produce dignified individuals who will become job-producers than mere job-seekers. We are with high hopes that the participants will take this conference in its proper perspective and they will feel the pulse of our problems and from their deliberations something fruitful and tangible will come out so that it may help the Governments in framing up the current development plans for generating jobs for the millions, and the goal of social justice is fulfilled.

It is my duty to apologize to the participants for publishing only the synopsis of their valued papers due to lack of time. There are printing mistakes here and there which may kindly be excused. It is important to note that the papers which will be approved by our editorial board will be published in the subsequent issue of the Journal.