

Proceedings of the 7th All India Conference on Engineering Materials and Equipment" and seminar on "Housing Environment" : Calcutta, March 8 to 10, 1977

The convenor Er. P. K. Bhattacharya reports that the above conference sponsored by the Association of Engineers, India and co-sponsored by Indian Standards Institution, C. M. D. A., C. M. P. O., H. U. D. CO., W. B. Housing Board, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and various other private & public sector organisations was inaugurated in Rabindra Sadan on 8th March '77 by Shri R. K. Saraogi, the then Minister of State for Housing, West Bengal. The inaugural session was chaired by Shri R. B. Sen, Housing Commissioner, West Bengal and Chairman reception committee. The session was presided over by Shri K. Roy, the outgoing president of the Association of Engineers, India. The conference forum was dedicated by the convenor to various delegates and authors who had assembled from around the country to participate in the deliberation. Karma Virottama awards for 1977 were given to Er. A. K. Ghosh & Dr. Jai Krishna (in-absentia)

In his Chief-guest's address Shri Saraogi highly appreciated efforts made by The Association of Engineers, India in formulating policy, planning, designing and providing a workable and viable modus-operandi for adopting low-cost housing adapted to local conditions.

In his welcome address Shri R. B. Sen elaborated on the programmes and policies of Housing in West Bengal and the progress

made so far. He deplored the fact that even 30 yrs after the independence, the low cost house of Rs. 6000/- is beyond the range of 97% of the population. Shri Sen also described in details various housing projects under-taken so far and the new projects in progress.

In his introduction the convenor, Shri Bhattacharya traced the history of this association from the inception and highly appreciated the spontaneous response from construction agencies, consulting agencies, Govt. & Quasi Govt. organisations in donating generously for making the conference most successful so far. The convenor also thanked Apeejay house for providing the sumptuous refreshment at Rabindra Sadan. M/S. Atkins Das Ltd. & M/S. G. L. Chatterjee for hosting the dinner at The Park, M/S Northend Engineering Co. for providing Tea & snack in between the technical sessions, M/S. Chatterjee Polk (p) Ltd for hosting the farewell lunch at the press club on March 10th. The convenor also appreciated the co-sponsorship of M/S. Banka & Sons for providing folders to the delegates and authors attending the conference

Er. N. R. Banerjee, Secretary, highlighted the different activities of the Association and thanked all for leading the conference towards a fruitful end.

The technical sessions were held at G.S.I. auditorium during 9th & 10th March spread

over three sessions namely i) Housing Planning, ii) Housing Design & Construction, iii) Environmental and Infrastructural aspect.

The panel of judges to select the best speaker awards included Shri M. B. Ghosh, Shri K. Roy, Shri R. B. Chakraborty, Shri S. Chatterjee, Shri S. K. Basu, Shri S. K. Ghosal, Shri Shiv Dutta Sharma, Shri S. K. Mitra, Shri R. B. Sen & Dr. P. N. Chatterjee for various technical sessions.

The first session was chaired by Mr. M. B. Ghosh, the present president of the association and Director, New Towns development, CMDA. The key note address was delivered by Shri S. K. Ghosh, Chief architect, Town & Country Planning Deptt., West Bengal. The best speaker award for this session was sponsored by M/s S. K. Chakraborty & Co. Ltd.

The second session on Housing Design & Construction was chaired by Shri R. B. Sen, Chairman Reception Committee, Housing Commissioner, West Bengal. The key note address of this session was delivered by Dr. P. K. Chowdhuri, Executive Director, M/s. Bridge & Roof Co. (I) Ltd. The best speaker award for this session was sponsored by M/s.

J. G. Engineers Pvt. Ltd. Various issues were raised in this session by many speakers.

The third session on environmental & Infrastructural aspects of Housing was chaired by Sri B. K. Chatterjee, Managing Director, M/s. Chatterjee & Polk Pvt. Ltd. The key note address for this session was delivered by Shri A. P. Banerjee, Dy. Director General, Indian Standards Institution and vice-president of the Association of Engineers, India. The best speaker award for this session was sponsored by The Institution of Public Health Engineers, India.

On the inauguration day, the dance drama Chitrangada was staged through the courtesy of Lokranjan Sakha of Govt. of W. Bengal. On 9th evening a highly entertaining magic show and folk music programme by 'Surolok' were presented. The farewell lunch at Press Club was a gala affair. The delegates and others highly appreciated the management of the conference and proposed the opening of local chapters in different states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka & Goa.

Lunch & thanks-giving over, the participants, authors, delegates & guests left with a nostalgic memory of the hospitalities of the Association of Engineers, India with the hope that identical success, if not more, would be achieved in the years to come.