

## From Secretary's Desk

It is a happy occasion in the life of the Association of Engineers, established in 1919 to present the Golden Jubilee volume of its mouthpiece, the Journal of the Association of Engineers, India which first saw the light of the day in 1925. The editor has recorded in this volume, what were **on record** in the past volumes of the Journal. Although little could be brought back to light, our hearts are filled with pride to see what the old guards did, unaided by any agency or State, for their beloved Association. They have passed on to us, a legacy which any engineer would be proud to share, to rear and to endear. Our Association did not receive any charter from the alien rulers, nor did we receive it from our Government till now. This, however, could not deter us from upholding our objectives and in fact goaded us to work hard to prove our worth for recognition.

Our conferences, seminars, paper-meetings and symposiums have fetched participation of engineers and professionals whether they are in Govt. or in private institutions or establishments. Our management development programmes have attracted lot many industries of the country who are sending their engineers to these courses for being exposed to modern management techniques and to update their technical knowledge. We are also rendering consultancy services to small and medium industries through our consultancy cell. The budding engineers and technologists have opportunities to get themselves associated with the Association by participating in essay

contests and similar extra-curricular activities conducted by the Association. All these go to say that our Association has already received de facto recognition, although de jure recognition is in wanting.

For material prosperity of the nation through socialism and to redeem the solemn pledge given in the preamble of our Constitution, fuller utilisation of our natural and human resources, through engineering and technology are necessary. As a corollary, engineers have to be given their rightful place in policy making as well as execution of work whether it be in Government or in private industries. The country has paid a high price in not being able to achieve the targets set for each of the five-year plans—the obvious reason being placement of confidence in bureaucrats who never have the expertise to implement such challenging jobs. Till such time this hitherto indestructible bureacracy is replaced by engineers, technologists and other professionals, the cherished desires of our leaders will not be fulfilled. Jawaharlal Nehru could foresee that future of the country would depend more on engineers than on administrators. Our present Prime Minister also shares the same opinion as her father. She declared in 1967 : “The brightest of our youngmen and women choose engineering and medicine. If they happen to go into government, they are very soon overtaken by the general administrator. This must change and I am trying to change it.” The Ruling Party in its Election Manifesto in 1971 promised. “The congress

invites the nation's Scientists and Technologists to give their best to accomplish these exciting tasks of momentous importance assures them that it would be its constant endeavour not only to accord them positions of standing and responsibility but involve them intimately in the process by which governmental decisions are taken and implemented as early as possible." The scientists and technologists gave their best and the nation saw the facts of Pokhran and Aryabhata—we entered into nuclear as well as space age. But the pledge of our leaders is yet to be redeemed and even today schemes proposed by engineers and scientists lie at the disposal of entrenched bureaucracy. Observing this sorry states of affairs, Prof. A. K. Das Gupta and Prof. Nihar Ranjan Roy had this to say in their dissenting Report of the Third Pay Commission: "It is absurd, in our view, that a Government which has embarked on a comprehensive programme of economic development and accepted technical progress in its widest sense as the major aim of policy, should still continue to accord a lower value to a scientist, an engineer or a doctor than it does to an administrator." It is heartening to note that engineers and other professionals have

already directed relentless efforts in securing a rightful place for them in administration—their guiding star being love for the country which in other words is patriotism. The Association of Engineers, India identifies itself with this struggle of professionals with the same urge and spirit. And if misfortune ever looms over any of our professional brothers for upholding the cause of the profession, our Association will proudly share it.

The Association of Engineers, India appeals to all engineers, young and old, to join it as corporate members and bring to fruition the desire of our illustrious predecessors to build it as a national body on whose platform engineers of all disciplines and shades could meet and deliberate to devise plans and programmes for optimum utilisation of our vast resources through proper use of indigenous science and technology. Only this, coupled with the fervour of nationalism, can radically change face of India and bring to reality the dreams of martyrs which they dreamt offering their lives at the alter of our motherland. Let us not belittle them.

**N. R. Banerjee**  
Secretary.

**ENGINEERS, ENROLL YOURSELF  
AS CORPORATE MEMBERS.**