

Inaugural Address

by

National Professor Satyendra Nath Bose

I thank all of you for having me invited in this very important occasion. I remember, I attended also the first conference. Mr. Chatterjee has very kindly brought me here.

First of all, I express my deep sorrow for sudden demise of B. B. Ghosh who encouraged others to pick up the problem of collection of engineering materials to settle the needs of the country.

We have to look after the goals to action, from villages to cities. We have to illuminate the roadsides and also to provide means to extend power and light to the villages concerned. We are to meet the villagers' activities by allowing people to settle down in villages. By providing adequate manure and putting in adequate water to irrigate the field, you can produce food in such quantities to enable you to face the problem. It will very soon be possible for us to stop importing wheat from other countries. I may tell you that very soon we will be able to put in the market new varieties of rice, seeds of paddy so that we can also utilise these benefits of scientific discoveries. Evidently it has become clear that in order to adequately produce food that are required, we have to usefully put our mind to solve the problem and the problems that loom large are, first, procurement of seed of high quality, secondly the manure and thirdly the irrigation. Adopting these, much achievements have been found in Haryana and the Punjab, both in Bharat and Pakistan. It has been possible to increase tremendously the production capacity per acre of our own land and their people have

been able to produce in such quantities that not only there is adequate food but as Mr. Chatterjee has pointed out, an amount of money has been put in the pocket of agriculturist which has tempted them to invest money in small scale industries. Small scale industries are thus growing up and they are enabling themselves to produce such materials which are utilised for repairs and for building up new machines. An ordinary agriculturist has been convinced with immense utility of modern science, inspite of the fact that we are, as yet, behind many other countries. Talented people should persue agriculture, as their worth lies in the utilisation of huge benefits that science has offered to us. In this connection, I may refer to you one of my old friends who was once a taxi driver. He came to know how to run a diesel engine. After his retirement he concentrated his efforts to irrigate, by pumping out water from the tubewells, his few acres of land that he possessed as his ancestor's property. By doing this, he had even been able to purchase a tractor.

Bengal is proud of itself being in the forefront of advancement in science and engineering. We have not been able to show such spectacular progress as may be seen by people—by travellers who visit other parts of India. Whatever may be the reasons, West Bengal is lagging behind. But it is really heartening to see that the Engineers, the Members of the Association of Engineers, India, have thought of their importance and urgency of the problem of electrification, the importance of roads, the extraction of water so that

We may not need to depend on the whims of the nature.

I have much confidence on you. You can, if you are industrious. You can, if you have people. You can, if you have adequate supply of power. If power is extended to the villagers, cultivators can make profit out of the saleable products in cities and towns. Of course, you will have to extend proper facilities of roads for transport and so on. The recent events have shown that how inadequate roads are and how improper they look at. I am an old man who has been in the city of Calcutta which was once the second city of the British Empire. Now I may tell you that the roads have been deteriorated in the last 25 years, in spite of best efforts of our Corporation. Whether Calcutta Corporation or the people of Calcutta are at fault, nobody can say that, there will be at once a subject for eternal discussion but the fact remains that obnoxious smell of gases and heaves of garbage are lying for months together to deteriorate public life. These prob-

lems have been already adequately enumerated by Shri Ganguli.

Just now you have heard the hymns of Vedas. It has urged people to work. I think, Engineers will rest on hard works. They want that and they will be able to provide adequate solutions to our problems. I think in these sessions we will have a sort of demonstration of engineering materials which are at our disposal. We have to think what we can do and how to utilise new materials to solve our old problems. Our problems are peculiar to our soil, to our climate and to our people. When we have before us adequate programme of work which when deliberately and adequately followed, which when placed by our Government with money and materials, I think very soon we can solve our problems. I wish that this conference does produce its works that are lying at our disposal and get adequate answers to all the problems that have been raised here.

Appeal To Our Members

1. Kindly help enrolling new members.
2. Kindly Procure advertisements for our journal.
3. Kindly send constructive suggestions.
4. Donate technical books for our Library.
5. Send articles for our journal.