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Chief Research Officer,
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- (4) Sri M. B. GHOSH,
Controller of Purchase &
Stores, C. M. D. A.
- (5) Dr. B. N. SINHA,
Director, Geological Survey
of India.
- (6) Sri D. P. GHOSH,
Executive Engineer, P. W. D.
(Roads) Dte, W. Bengal.
Sri S. N. GUPTA, Former
Chief Engineer, P. W. D., West Bengal.
Sri T. K. BASU

Presidential Speech by

Vote of Thanks by

1-30 P. M. : Lunch at PARK HOTEL

Seminar Session : S-I.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Inaugural Speech

By

Shyam Sundar Gupta

I deem it a great privilege to be here among the galaxy of Engineers, to inaugurate the Technical Sessions organised by the Association of Engineers, India. Like many national landmarks in the city of Calcutta, the Association of Engineers, India, laid the foundation stone of the glorious movement launched by a group of nationally inspired engineers of the British India as early as 1919. Over this half a century, his Association and its members were in the service of the profession. Now

they have ventured through this conference to focus your attention to the vital problems of the country.

Any big city like Calcutta has got some inherent problems. The problems are always characterized by the "country" surrounding the city. When we say the city of Calcutta has become inhabitable we immediately recognize that the hinterland of the city has also gone much worse. It is only the density of the problems, that makes the city a head-

line news. As such, even a snob in Calcutta has started feeling like you all, that something must be done for the rural counterpart of our country not only due to his altruistic feelings for the rural areas but more in his own interest.

It is my feeling that the subject matter that you have chosen for discussion in the three Technical Sessions are more concerning rural problems. The third Session on Road and Highway Construction of course concerns both the towns and the villages. Whether in the towns and or cities, the word road or highway has got a wider meaning. It perhaps means all type of 'ways' including 'superways' and 'subways'. Road in a city means not only a carriageway for vehicular traffic, it is also the carriageway for sewerlines, waterlines, gas ducts, telephone wires, power cables, tubes and what not? Moreover, when, like metropolis of Calcutta, all suburban roads lead to the city proper it makes the problem more complex.

By electrification of the villages, the economics of the rural India will definitely improve. By sinking deep tubewells and energising those through the network of power transmission, India will naturally stride forward in solving malnutrition problems of our country-

men. Moreover when the rate of development of commerce and industry in any country depends on the mobility of power, improvement of road communications is of paramount importance in any developing society.

You have come here from various parts of India. You all know how millions of helpless people from over the border have taken shelter in this state and are counting the days of their victory against the military autocracy now prevailing in their motherland. Many brilliant engineers and architects, I learn, have laid their lives in Bangla Desh for the cause of their independence. The entire Bangla Desh is now in ruins. But engineers can do miracles. After the vast ruins of the last two world wars, the engineers of the world demonstrated how quick they can rebuild a country. The mutual discussions and exchange of ideas through this type of technical seminars help the engineering community, a lot in achieving their programme of re-development and construction.

I hope, the deliberations of this Conference will prove beneficial to our country as a whole and the people.

I declare this Technical Session open.

Welcome Address

By

N. N. Chakravarty.

I really consider it an honour that I have been afforded the opportunity to accord my hearty welcome to you in the Seminar on Rural Electrification, the need for which has been recognised from the very beginning of the planned development of India.

Even though it was felt that a massive rural electrification programme could lead to development in the rural areas and relieve unemployment in the countryside, it was only after the successive failure of crops and growing economic disparities between the