

evening on the 27th instant. Folk Entertainment section of Govt. of West Bengal has entertained our guests and delegates with their masterly performance that had in the past added feathers to their cap. We express our thanks to them.

I acknowledge with gratitude the co-operation the Press has always extended by giving due publicity to our programme.

Acknowledgement is due to our young friends and colleagues in and outside the profession without whose help and co-operation this Conference would not have been possible.

Our thanks are also due to various other organisations who have helped publication of the souvenir by contributing advertisements. A few other reputed firms came forward to entertain the guests and delegates in a spirit of cooperation and good will. I thank them too.

I thank our highly respected National Professor and Bengal's pride Shri Satyendra Nath Bose who has always shown profound interest in our activities and has made this Association graceful by his presence and deliberations. I heartily thank Prof. A. C. Roy, formerly vice-chancellor, North Bengal University, Sri M. M. Chowdhury, Chief Minister of Assam, Sri D. P. Chatterjee, Minister of State for Health and Family Planning, Govt. of India, Sri M. L. Khanna, Technical Member, Haryana State Electricity Board, Sri M. S. Balasundaram,

Director General, Geological Survey of India, Sri N. N. Chakraborty, Chief Inspector of Electricity, Govt. of West Bengal, Sri S. N. Gupta, formerly Chief Engineer, Roads, Govt. of West Bengal, Sri S. Chatterjee, Chief Engineer, CMPO and Sri K. C. Sivaramkrishnan, Secretary, CMDA. We are particularly grateful to Sri Sivaramkrishnan for putting across a few very practical ideas. He really hit the nail right on the head when he said that "Schemes are not being done fast enough, well enough and with enough imagination". I am sure the Engg. community is well aware that for these lapses the Engineers have got to share proportionate responsibility. We should by all means put our best foot forward for the sake of the people and for that matter for the sake of ourselves. But at the same time I wish to emphasise that, whether anybody admits this or not, engineering and technical problems are not always analysed and the solutions thought of on the basis of engineering and technology as such. Willynilly, inefficiency there will be, inaction there will be, corruption there will be, but it is the Engineer's earnest wish that let the politicians and administrators not undo the good efforts of the Engineers even if they are few and far between.

I must thank all the authors for their valuable contributions and our guests for their august presence and participation in the discussions which have made all the seminars of this Conference successful.

I thank you all once again.

Report

By

S. K. Neogi

Secretary General, 2nd All India Conference on Engineering Materials & Equipment.

We are meeting in this Conference at a moment when all the world press is anxiously waiting for a very unwanted news whether Pakistan is going to attack India officially.

Fortunately Calcutta, now, is more or less calm so far as the anti-social troubles are concerned. Otherwise this year we would have either to change the venue of the Conference from

Calcutta or to cancel the Conference altogether.

About holding this Conference every year we have a small background. In 1969, the Association of Engineers, India, the main sponsor of this Conference celebrated their Golden Jubilee in this very auditorium. Apart from the general and cultural Sessions it had a few technical Sessions as well. Before that we had a very bad experience about technical lectures. We were told by our seniors that technical sessions would be a flop. They cited the instances of well established engineering Institutions who hold periodical technical sessions on variety of subjects. The sessions can not attract audience unless those are presided over by colourful people, preferably those with some great political status. But our endeavour during the Golden Jubilee was entirely of different approach. We selected subjects of discussions after careful consultation with technical people from all branches of science and engineering. The subjects were so chosen that those would attract people in their own interest. We were successful. Our sessions were all jam packed and fluent with valuable deliberation.

After the grand success of the Golden Jubilee Technical Sessions of the Association of Engineers, India, we thought of making the conference an annual feature. We were requested from many quarters to stress more importance to the aspects of Engineering Materials & Equipment for which there is no standard annual Session anywhere in India. Last year we took up the subjects of Urban Development. It included various aspects of city Reconstruction and Expansion. We were specially interested in this subject primarily because the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) had just taken up the challenging work of Greater Calcutta's development as guided by the Master Plans

prepared by the Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organisation (CMPO). The Conference of 1970 was largely attended by Scientists, Engineers, Industrialists and Administrators serving the city Governments. The deliberations did definitely help preparing a guideline for all who are associated with similar jobs in various cities and urban centres in India.

This year's subjects are more or less old but very topical. After twenty four years of Independence it has been discovered that we are yet to do a lot for our rural India. Only that day I attended a meeting where the Consul General of U.S.S.R. in Calcutta Mr. A. Ezov gave an account of their 'yet to do' works for their country. It mostly included development works in rural areas and that for the common people. The standard upto now achieved for rural areas in U.S.S.R. is still the 'target' for many Indian 'Cities'. On this consideration it was decided that the 2nd Conference on Engineering Materials & Equipment should be oriented towards our rural problems. The subject matters of our Irrigation and Road & Highway Construction are all concerned with rural economy.

The year 1972 will be celebrated as the Silver Jubilee Year of our Independence. The third All India Conference on Engineering Materials & Equipment will naturally have special mood. We shall all expect that our wide family of patrons will come forward and collaborate with us in making our 1972 Conference befitting to the occasion.

In organising this Conference we have received encouragement and patronage from all quarters. The Govt. departments and also the private organisations have always honoured our appeal to them. We have learnt the lesson that for a good cause like ours no sensible man in this world can remain passive, may be he is an Administrator, a Journalist or a Scientist.

With deep regards to Prof. Satyendranath Bose, Professor A. C. Roy and to you all, I conclude.