

The panel discussion at the end brought out the following significant points.

1. The need for standardisation of sampling and analytical procedure.
2. The exploitation agencies should invest in creating new laboratory facilities for very low levels of gold detection.
3. Geological maps of all greenstone belts on larger scales to be made available by the GSI. Quick publication of geological maps and reports by the GSI is an important requisite.
4. Need for accelerated investigation in all Late Archaean greenstone belts by regional mapping on 1:25,000 scale, large scale mapping on 1:10,000 scale and grid-pattern sampling of soil and lithounits for locating geochemical anomalies. For a developing country with resource crunch, it is necessary to avoid duplication of efforts and encourage private investment.
5. Need for greater R & D in exploration and exploitation of gold resources and in metallurgical processes.
6. Avoidance of premature announcement of results of investigation and to aim at providing well substantiated resource and reserve data.
7. Detailed exploration work involving geophysical methods and deep drilling should be undertaken by exploiting agencies.
8. Time frame for grant of prospecting licences to be fixed and investment by private companies for speedy exploration and exploitation to be encouraged.
9. Development of smaller prospects employing local labour and pooling of ore from several prospects for a central beneficiation plant.
10. Care to be taken to achieve zero level pollution.

*Bangalore*

S.V. SRIKANTIA

### ETHICS IN THE GEOSCIENCES

The Geological Society of America is holding a Presidential Conference between 15-21 July 1997 on "Ethics in the Geosciences".

The primary goals of the 1997 Conference are: (1) to promote a dialogue within the geosciences community on ethical issues - issues that are not currently a part of the geoscientist's typical education or professional experience; and (2) to develop a framework for assembly and dissemination of information on ethical issues within the geoscience community. Discussion will focus on: identification of the types of ethical systems; cultural controls on ethical behaviour (conflict of ethical systems); case histories of ethics violations or perceived violations; professional certification, licensing, registration, and enforcement as applied to an ethical framework; legal protection associated with enforcement; existing codes of ethics from various professional societies and organizations; and means of instituting and fostering ethical behaviour.

Anticipated results of this conference are: establishment of increased and productive communication between geoscientists and behavioural scientists; creation of a focus on ethical issues and concepts that can be readily disseminated to the geoscience community; identification of methods for fostering and promoting ethical practices; development of an agenda for follow-up and future action; preparation of guidelines for developing a uniform code of ethics for consideration and adoption by the geoscience community.