

Editorial

This issue is published under a change in EDITORSHIP in accordance with the wishes of the council of the Association of Engineers. An occasion like this may warrant an introspection. This beloved journal of ours has lived for over 40 years, edited by eminent and efficient engineers. Many things written in these columns were constructive for the well being of Engineers and the country. Does any body take notice of what we engineers say? Do the Government take notice of engineering press just like the political or party papers? We think the answer is 'NO'. This country is administered and engineering activities steered by civilians, who can hold portfolios of fisheries to finance. Engineers are, however, not yet given the reign of their own departments administratively. At best, they are executors not administrators. The thought of engineers, all over the world, has been focussed on this crucial point but it seems the Government have not yet realised the gravity of the situation and what an encomium they bestow on engineers when any V.I.P open any building, bridge or barrage! It is our earnest request to Govt. they should give every one his due and to engineers they should not deny any longer the administrative responsibility. It is our clarion call to engineers that they should not fight shy of public activities. They should devote some time for social activities and energise the society for realisation of the claims of engineers for legitimate share in the administration. If more number of engineers become peoples representatives, automatically they will constitute the technocracy to rule over the administration of their various departments. If appealing to Government is the negative aspect, forming the Government is the positive aspect and engineers may think of returning capable members of their profession to form the Government to solve the problems which engineers can solve best. Our fellow engineers all over the world may act accordingly. What Indian engineers think to day, other engineers may think tomorrow.

Engineers and Engineering have not been utilised to the extent necessary for solving the problems of the country. While considering problems, we must give topmost priority to food problems. The spirit—"as our forefathers did"—is untenable in this age. In other countries, they are conquering space but in our country, we have not conquered even the land resources. Our administrators are yet to know that electronics can be applied to measure and control radiation over crops and ambient humidity in fields, protection of foodstuff from ravages of insect pests by irradiation which renders pest and their eggs infertile. Comparisons are odious but we cannot help comparing ourselves to assess our positions. The adage that a hungry nation can have no politics is not true for this country. It is not that we see no politics when politics is very cheaply and easily interspersed in social fabric. Engineers are kept at bay and have not been given the bridle to run the agricultural horse to destination. Technocracy—as many call it—must take the lead from old-fashioned, stereotyped, conservative civil administrator and prove the metal in them. Government would do well to accept engineers as redeemers in food crisis.

Next to agriculture is industry. We have had so many plants tailored to our requirements, so many turn-key plants ; but how far have these plants carried us forward is yet to be assessed. To what extent our industries have saved foreign exchange by producing indigenous articles and increasing import substitution ? Are our industries 'profit-based' or 'progress-based' ?

The Government of India have set up a Reforms Commission under the able guidance of Shri Morarji Desai and the W. B. state government propose to set one such commission. We wish the commission to extend its jurisdiction over the engineering domain and assess the need of reforms, to place the engineers in proper footing not only for execution of responsibilities but also for administration of engineering activities. Recognition of professional institutions, enhancement of technical education, status of engineers in socio-political spheres are items offered for consideration of Reforms Commission. Mr. Chagla has suggested for correspondence course for technical education. In our opinion, starting external degree examination like the London University is desideratum.
