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## RÔLE OF ENGINEERS IN INDIA\*

IT is an extraordinary fact and unfortunate fact that the enormous resources available in India have not been utilised for raising the standard of the nation. It is clear that with the proper utilisation of the present resources of India we can raise the standard very greatly.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that not only do we not utilise them to the best advantage but we actually waste the existing resources in destructive activities. That is a tragedy of the present generation.

\* Extracts from an Address delivered by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 6th December 1948 while inaugurating the 19th Annual Meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation.

Even more so it has been of the past generation. Somehow, we always find in history in the past age and in the present age that there are conflicting forces, forces of construction and forces of destruction. We find this conflict in the attitude of nations towards one another and among groups and ultimately perhaps in the spirit of man himself.

No man can work effectively without faith in himself that the forces of construction are there. Look at the map of Asia and of India. It stares at me in my room in the office. Whenever I look at it many pictures come up before my mind's eye, pictures of the long past history, of the

actual development of man from the earlier stages, of the beginning of culture and civilisation and of agriculture of the early days. Then my attention is concentrated on that huge block of mountains—the Himalayas. Look at them! Can you think of any other part of the world with such a magnificent stretch of mountains with such a vast reservoir of power and potential strength locked up in them! I know of none. How can we utilise it? There are many ways but essentially it is the job of the engineers to tap this vast power. River valley schemes, more or less, scratch the surface and it may be that many generations may pass before we have gone very far in exploiting this tremendous power we have got. In all these, engineers can play a very effective part.

Our task requires the co-operation of a large number of persons. From the top to bottom, if that co-operation is lacking and the spirit of working together is lacking, that job cannot be done properly and is delayed.

We have a very big job to do in this country in every sphere. It is no good complaining of uncomfortable things

happening around us. Since we are born in this period, we have to face them and conquer our difficulties. There is going to be little rest or real peace for us. There are going to be no dividends. The prospect before us is work, hard work. You must divert this hard work into constructive channels.

I do wish the engineers present here to realise that the responsibility of the constructive effort is tremendous and a great deal depends on how they discharge that responsibility and in what spirit they discharge it. I want you to infuse in your work the higher spirit of doing a fine job in fulfilment of certain objectives and ideas. You see ancient structures, mosques, temples. No one knows who built them but anyone can see with his eyes that people who built them were not only fine engineers but men of faith in their work. No one can build such things unless he has faith. We are living in a different age. We do not spend our time in making mosques and temples, but we build many types of public works. I would like you to work with that faith and you will find that if you work in that spirit the results will be great.

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### WORLD SCIENTISTS DISCUSS ATOMIC CHEMISTRY

**D**ISTINGUISHED world scientists will gather in Britain towards the end of March for a week's conference and interchange of ideas on atomic energy chemical developments.

The gathering, to be held during the week beginning March 28, has been arranged by the Atomic Energy Research Establishment of the British Ministry of Supply in conjunction with the Chemical Society.

The first part of the conference, to be held in Oxford from March 28 to 30, will include a

discussion on the chemistry of the Heavy Elements and on methods of separating radio isotopes.

The latter part will take place in London, and papers will be given on the use of radioactive tracer elements in chemistry, and will include applications in physical, inorganic, organic and bio-chemistry.

The conference will be attended by Fellows of the Chemical Society and by representatives of scientific institutions invited by the Ministry of Supply.

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