

# SYMPOSIUM ON POST-WAR ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN INDIA.

SEPTEMBER 27-28, 1943.

A Symposium on 'Post-war organisation of Scientific Research in India' was held under the auspices of the National Institute of Sciences of India at Calcutta on the 27th and 28th September, 1943. Sir J. C. Ghosh, President of National Institute, was in the Chair. The proceedings were opened by the Hon'ble Sir M. Azizul Haque, Commerce Member of the Government of India.

During the course of the Symposium papers were read in which the general principles underlying the planning and co-ordination of scientific research and the constitution of the organisations for the purpose as developed in the leading nations of the world were explained, an account was given of the work done by the various research institutions in India (Government departments, Universities and other unattached institutions) and attention was drawn to the problems facing post-war India. The following persons participated in the discussion:—

Sir J. C. Ghosh, Dr. K. G. Naik, Prof. M. N. Saha, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Dr. J. de Graaf Hunter, Dr. C. W. B. Normand, Prof. J. N. Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur S. L. Hora, Prof. S. K. Mitra, Prof. B. C. Guha, Dr. J. A. Dunn, Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, Dr. H. K. Sen, Prof. S. P. Agharkar.

Papers for the discussion had been sent by Dr. J. B. Grant, Sir Cyril S. Fox, Sir John Taylor, Prof. H. J. Bhabha, Dr. D. M. Bose, Prof. V. Subrahmanyam, Lt.-Col. S. S. Sokhey, and Rao Bahadur B. Viswanath.

These papers are now printed separately.

As the result of the discussion the following proposals regarding the formation of a National Research Council were adopted:—

I. The Council of the National Institute of Sciences of India be authorised to take necessary steps for the organisation of a National Research Council constituted under the statutory authority of the Government of India. The National Research Council shall be directly responsible to the Government and have the following functions:—

- (a) To plan the main lines of scientific work in accordance with national needs, to formulate schemes for the above purpose, to review and modify the same whenever necessary and to recommend ways and means for implementing the results of accomplished researches.
- (b) To ensure balanced development of all branches of Science, and minimise overlapping.
- (c) To advise and help relevant authorities regarding the training and supply of scientific personnel for pure and applied research.

## CONSTITUTION.

### *National Research Council.*

The National Research Council shall consist of scientific and technical experts not exceeding 60 in number, the majority of whom shall be elected by non-official scientific organisations, including Universities and institutions of University rank, the remaining number being nominated by the Government of India from among the scientific and technical experts. The President of the National Research Council shall be nominated by the Government of India from among the members. A Vice-President shall be elected by the National Research Council from among its members. A whole-time salaried Secretary shall be appointed by the National Research Council for carrying on its work, who will not be a member of the Council.

*Governing Body of the National Research Council.*

There shall be a Governing Body of the National Research Council which shall consist of the following:—

The President and Vice-President of the National Research Council, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each of the Boards.

*Boards of Research.*

For the performance of its functions the National Research Council shall constitute the following Boards of Research from among its own members, each of which will be responsible, within its own particular sphere, for giving effect to the policy of the National Research Council:—

1. Board of Scientific Research,
2. Board of Agricultural Research (Soils, Crops and Animal Husbandry),
3. Board of Medical and Public Health Research,
4. Board of Engineering Research,

and such other Boards as may be considered to be necessary.

The maximum number of members of each of the Boards of Research shall be 50. The National Research Council shall appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each Board and shall co-opt eminent scientific workers in different branches in consultation with non-official scientific organisations, Universities and institutions of University rank, scientific departments of the Government and Federations of Chambers of Commerce.

*Research Committees.*

For the performance of its work, each Board will be authorised to constitute Research Committees for all important subjects, to settle the objectives of research, indicate the individuals or organisations which could undertake the several component parts of the enquiry, receive and co-ordinate the resulting information, make it available to those who will turn it to advantage and to form a national plan into which all who are in a position to contribute information can fit the particular lines of research. Governing Bodies of National Research laboratories, when established, shall be constituted in consultation with the relevant Research Committees.

II. The Government of India be requested to form development corporations for the performance of functions analogous to those performed by the Research Enterprises Ltd. in Canada. The National Research Council shall be represented on the Governing Bodies of the development corporations.

III. To enable effect being given to the policy of scientific development determined by the National Research Council, the Government of India should make an annual grant of five crores of rupees per annum.

These proposals have been circulated to the Government scientific departments, Universities, learned societies and unattached institutions and will be discussed, with a view to their being given effect to, at the Annual General Meeting of the National Institute of Sciences of India to be held at Delhi on the 30th and 31st December, 1943, at which representatives of the relevant organisations have been invited to be present.

S. P. AGHARKAR,  
*Honorary Secretary.*