



Vol. IX] MARCH 1940 [NO. 3

Organisation of Industrial Research*

It is thought that the occasion of the annual meeting of the Court of the *Indian Institute of Science*, Bangalore, which brings together so many influential representatives of science, industry and the professions, might be profitably utilized for concerting measures to promote

*This memorandum prepared by Sir M. Visvesvaraya, KCIE, was forwarded to the members of the Court of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for discussion at the meeting held on 23rd instant. The note contains recommendations which furnish material for a fruitful public discussion which we invite. It seems opportune that Sir M. Visvesvaraya has initiated deliberations in the first instance at the meeting of the Court and we would ask our readers to contribute their views and suggestions which will be gladly considered for publication. – Ed.

industrial research. This may be done with a view, not only to strengthen this class of research in the *Indian Institute of Science*, but also, if possible, to co-ordinate the work done in all parts of the country, and prepare a plan and programme for the coming year.

There are special reasons why stress should be laid on industrial research at the present time and why it would be appropriate for a body like the Court of this Institute to consider this subject. In recent months educationists and business men have been loudly calling for measures to promote industries. The War has cut off supply, or enhanced the prices of chemicals, machinery and other commodities usually imported hitherto, and Government are also hard put to it for obtaining transport, military and other stores.

The question of promoting industrial research has been under the consideration of the authorities of this Institute for over six years. In the latest quinquennial Review, the Irvine Committee have outlined a scheme 'to make applied research the first and most responsible duty of the Institute'.

The Science Institutes, Universities and Colleges, have been spending considerable sums of money on research, but this is mostly on what is known as *pure research*. Since their activities are not

regulated by any all-India Organisation which can speak with authority, there is no co-ordination or regulation of effort among research workers in the country just as there is, for instance, under Government auspices in Great Britain and the Dominions. This often results in duplication of work and waste of energy and money. There is no lack of scientific talent in the country to carry on industrial research or business ability to exploit such researches commercially but they are at present not systematically mobilised to serve the interests of industry.

The importance of application of scientific methods and knowledge to the practice of industries is now universally recognized. Several countries including the Dominions of the British Commonwealth have National Research Councils to organise and supervise work of this description, and recent indications are that the Government of India are also seriously thinking of a move in the same direction.

Until the Government of India find it possible to establish an institution like a National Research Council, it may be necessary to start a *small unofficial Committee* of representative scientists and business men to organize industrial research in War time.

MEETINGS/SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

National Conference on Recent Advances in Reproductive Health (NCRARH-2003)

Date: 6-8 February 2003
Place: Jaipur

Topics include: Reproduction, contraception and strategies for population control, Pregnancy and safe motherhood, Unwanted pregnancy and abortion, Adolescent reproductive health, AIDS, RTI and STDs, Diagnosis and management of infertility, Andropause, menopause and HRT and Livestock reproductive technologies.

Contact: Prof. N. K. Lohiya
Organising Secretary, NCRARH-2003
Department of Zoology
University of Rajasthan
Jaipur 302 004
Tel: 0141-2701809; 2703552 (O)
2710071 (R)
Fax: 0141-2710880
E-mail: lohiank@hotmail.com

Workshop on Emerging Issues in Late Quaternary Environment (Change) and Training Program on Recent methodologies in Applied Palynology and Past Environmental Reconstruction (EILQUEC & POLTRAIN 2003)

Date: 10-15 February 2003
Place: Pondicherry

EILQUEC & POLTRAIN 2003 will focus on data and model inter-comparison and multi-proxy approaches in the reconstruction of past environments since the last glacial epoch.

Contact: Dr Anupama Krishnamurthy
Convenor, EILQUEC & POLTRAIN 2003
French Institute of Pondicherry
PB 33, 11 St Louis Street
Pondicherry 605 001
E-mail: eilquec@ifpindia.org
Web site: <http://www.ifpindia.org/Ecology/poltrain/home.html>