

## Item 6 : Address of the President

“It gives me great pleasure to be with you today to speak to you on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Institute.

“I am happy that the Institute has continued its good work in the past year. New areas of research have been opened and increased training activity undertaken. I congratulate the Director on this outstanding success.

“The problems facing our country have multiplied even as it has achieved remarkable progress in various fields. Agricultural production has increased remarkably in the last couple of years and industrial production has also been increasing steadily. We have impressed the world with our

scientific achievements. We have put a satellite into orbit and hope to revolutionise the development of communications in the country.

“In spite of these achievements, you will agree with me, important problems continue to persist. Although food production may have increased, a considerable number of people still go without adequate diet either in terms of quantity or nutrition. Hunger stalks still the houses of many people in both rural and urban areas and they also lack other basic amenities of life. Dealing with those living below the poverty line appears to be the real challenge to public administrators in India. New policies must be devised and new ways of implementation found to help resolve the difficulties facing us in our efforts to help the poor.

“In this connection, I am happy to learn that you have chosen the theme of Public Distribution of Essential Commodities for discussion in your Annual Conference scheduled to take place tomorrow. A sound scheme of distribution often holds the key to access to scarce commodities for the poor. But the content and the implementation of the scheme of public distribution deserves constant attention. I am confident that your Conference will make some valuable and practical suggestions in this behalf.

“Poverty is *the* problem we face today. Existing programmes to eradicate poverty have to be strengthened and new ones devised. This requires the expertise of both a researcher and practitioner. You as members of this premier Institute have among you people with deep and abiding interest in the theory and practice of public administration. Thus, this Institute has a real opportunity to pool its talents and help the country in solving this basic problem.

“Another problem that requires immediate attention is the preservation of our national unity. Although we achieved independence on the basis of overriding national loyalty, today many sub-national loyalties are raising their heads. In a country of the dimensions of India, regional, racial, religious and linguistic tendencies will appear sometimes. They cannot be ignored. But our approach to them from the viewpoint of national loyalty and national integration should be one of allowing some to play legitimate roles in limited

spheres, modifying them as development proceeds and removing those repugnant to the principles of equality and justice.

“Administration faces a great challenge and has an important role to play both in building up national integration and abolishing poverty. It must be a unifying force providing requisite goods and services to all without discrimination. By its own work it must set an example. Its services have to be so devised that they may be within the reach of all alike. You have to keep the national interest in mind and devise methods of administration that can serve it. New ways of organising work and new patterns of human behaviour must emerge in society. This Institute with academicians, practitioners and men engaged in public affairs has a unique opportunity to make a contribution to national unity and integration and economic progress.

“Let me emphasize again that we are passing through a time of great stress and strain. Improvements in policy formulations and implementation of programmes arising therefrom are crucial to our stability and progress. We need to be conscious of the need to make public administration more efficient and socially responsive. We have to accept the challenges of those problems and overcome them. Public administration that does not respond to the demands of rapidly changing social and economic conditions will one day cease to be effective. Indeed, it has not only to respond but to anticipate problems in order to be effective.

“I have no doubt in my mind that we have the capacity to undertake such tasks. What is needed is determination and commitment. The Institute can help in building up these qualities through its research and training effort. It can raise the level of consciousness to help develop administrators who are sensitive to their environment, committed to socio-economic justice and trained to severe professionalism in administration. I congratulate the prize winners in the Essay Competition. I am told the interest this year was more and I hope the interest will grow now.

“I wish the General Body success in its endeavours.

“Thank you.”