

Address

Shri S. SAMARAPUNGVAN

Chairman, SAIL



Hon'ble Minister for Steel & Mines, Shri N. K. P. Salve, Shri Mody, Prof. Altekar, Dr. Dastur, Dr. Irani and Dr. Kumar.

Indeed today starting with the Presidential Address and followed up by Dr. Irani and the Inaugural Speech of our Minister, you heard the so-called avowed non-specialists speaking most knowledgeably on almost all aspects of ferro alloys. Therefore, there is very little that I could add to it especially in view of the fact that the Special Address is going to be given by Dr. M. N. Dastur, which will, I am sure, cover all the aspects in detail of ferro-alloys. Therefore, I don't intend to waste your time speaking on ferro-alloys since I am a mere user of the ferro-alloys. My only interest lies in getting the right quality of ferro-alloys at low cost if the rising cost of steel industry which cannot be compensated in the market conditions, I do expect that whatever can be done by the ferro-alloy industry in keeping down the cost will go towards helping the steel industry. But I would like to touch upon another aspect that is the collaboration that takes place between the industry, the

research institutions, the academic institutions and the professional bodies.

Now there has been a good deal of interaction, I know, between the National Metallurgical Laboratory and the ferro-alloy industry. I am not so sure whether there has been any kind of interaction between the academic institutions and the ferro-alloy industry. I have found that such interaction at least in the steel industry has been of enormous benefit to us and I am sure, it must have benefited the academic institutions as well and in all these, a professional body like the Indian Institute of Metals could play a major role in interacting and maintaining the kind of balance that is required and convening the various interactions so that information is widely available and spread out. I am speaking this more on behalf of Dr. J. J. Irani, who is now continuing to be the Chairman of the Iron & Steel Division of the Indian Institute of Metals. Last few years certain amount of work has commenced in this respect with the various industries. Unfortunately I find that in the ferro-alloy industry, the requisite amount of interac-

tion has not taken place. So I would only spend these couple of minutes to request the ferro-alloy industry to make use of forums such as the Indian Institute of Metals so that the kind of interaction that has helped elsewhere in every other country, could be possible here also. The problems can be discussed, solutions found, closer interaction established between the various members as you know, there is a very active role being played by members on the academic institutions, the laboratories and all, in this body. Similarly if you would come forward, I am quite sure that this kind of interaction could go a long way towards ensuring better returns in a particularly difficult situation where

due to on the one hand power constraints and on the other hand certain amount of over capacity, the capacity utilisations are quite low, less than 50% in most of our ferro alloy industries and with the raw-materials creating more and more problems, energy costs going up, I am sure this kind of interaction will help us in finding solutions in absorbing at least part of the costs by improved technologies and methods.

With these few words, I thank you all. I am extremely glad to come back to Jamshedpur, which has been my first home when I started my career.