

technology could become a major force for economic and social change; we are at the point where a real break-through and a take-off are possible. It is the hope of the scientific community that this opportunity will not be missed."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank Dr. P. J. Lavakare for useful discussions, which helped in the preparation of this article.

1. *The Fifth Five-Year Plan* (1974-79), Planning Commission, New Delhi.
2. *The Sixth Five-Year Plan* (1978-83), Planning Commission, New Delhi.
3. *The Report of the Working Group on Science and Technology for the Sixth Plan* (1980-85), Planning Commission, New Delhi, Dec. 1980.
4. *The Sixth Five-Year Plan* (1980-85), Planning Commission, New Delhi (1981).
5. *Annual Report 1980-81*, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi (1981).

A WELCOME DIRECTIVE FROM UGC

THE scientific community in India has been bestowing considerable thought on the development of scientific publications of international standards, within the country. The struggle has been hard but some progress has been made.

The communication of the results of a piece of scientific research is an essential part of research itself; and the building up of well-run scientific periodicals, backed by an enlightened and rigorous scientific refereeing system is a pre-requisite for the creation of a healthy scientific climate at home.

The habit amongst several Indian scientists of sending their papers abroad still continues. The scientific community has been concerned about the means for breaking this habit. Bringing up high quality theme journals, which can match some of the best ones abroad, publishing research papers with the minimum delay commensurate with the requirements of a good and healthy refereeing system, and producing the journals at costs which are considerably cheaper than those of foreign journals, are some of the important steps taken.

Till now some organisations persist in the habit of requiring candidates for faculty positions and fellowships to list separately their research papers published in foreign journals and those in Indian journals, thereby creating an impression in the minds of the young scientific workers that the former carry greater weight. Habits die hard.

We are happy that when this was brought to the notice of the Chairman of the University Grants Commission by a senior scientist, UGC promptly issued a circular to all universities advising them not to do so. The notification has rightly emphasised that the publications in Indian journals are as important as those published in outside journals; and that the selection of a candidate should among other things be judged on the intrinsic merit of his publications and not where they were published. The scientific community is aware of a tendency among some of the scientists, even senior ones, to attach undue impor-

tance to the number of papers published rather than to the quality of the papers and the scientific advance made by their contributions. Scientific workers (young and old) split up one good paper into several small ones to push up the number of papers published. We are glad that UGC has also emphasised that the mere number of papers should not form the basis of selection. The prompt directions of UGC on these two important issues are quite appropriate and most welcome. We give below the relevant extracts from the UGC circular.

"It has been brought to the notice of the Commission that some universities, while inviting applications from candidates for faculty positions/fellowships ask them to list separately in the application forms their research publication in (a) foreign journals and (b) in Indian journals. This creates an inevitable impression amongst research workers that the publications in foreign journals carry greater weight thereby adding to the disincentives to publications in Indian research journals.

It may be emphasised that publications in Indian journals are as important as publications in foreign journals. The selection of a candidate is judged by the Selection Committee amongst others on the merit of his publications and not on the basis of the number and place of publication.

It is, therefore, requested that the relevant column in the application form where provision is made regarding list of research publications separately in foreign journals and in Indian journals for recruitment to faculty positions/fellowships may be omitted ..."

We heartily support the directions given by UGC and congratulate them for their prompt action. We urge that other agencies at the national level which recruit and employ scientists in a variety of disciplines also follow this practice if they are not already doing so. This is an important step in support of the efforts by the scientific community to establish good journals in the country.