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NEWS

THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SURFACTANTS, EMULSIONS AND BIOCOLLOIDS

The Third National Conference on Surfactants, Emulsions and Biocolloids will be held during December 28–30, 1987, under the auspices of the Indian Society for Surface Science and Technology and organised by Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

The Conference will provide an opportunity to technologist and experts from Academic and Research Institutions and Industries to assemble on a common platform to exchange views and discuss developments related to latest findings from active researchers. The discussion and interaction will widen the perspectives of research and development

and provide an opportunity for scientists, technologists and experts engaged in the area of fundamental and applied aspects of Surface Science in the Academic Institutes and Industries to come together for a meaningful co-operation.

The technical sessions shall include invited lectures, presentation of papers (oral/poster) and symposia.

Details can be ascertained from: Dr H. N. Singh, Organising Secretary, Third National Conference on Surfactants, Emulsions and Biocolloids, Department of Chemistry, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 202 001.

ORGANIC COMPOUNDS ACCUMULATING SOLAR ENERGY

Organic compounds to accumulate solar energy and supply it at the will of the experimenter have been developed by the staff members of the Institute of Chemistry of the Bashkirian branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The products of petrochemical synthesis make the basis of these substances. Under the influence of solar light, chemical transformations take place in them resulting in a new product which can keep the accumulated heat. Prof. Genrikh Tolstikov, one of the authors of this project, said that one kilogram of such product can accumulate 300 kilo-calories sufficient to heat a few

dozen litres of water to the boiling point. In order to release thermal energy, it is necessary to affect the compound with a special catalyst. If needed, the substance-accumulator can be charged from solar rays practically for an unlimited number of times.

It is hoped that in future the new compounds will replace portable power stations at the places which are far from energy sources. (*Sovet features*, Vol. XXVI, No. 4, p. 5, 1987; Information Department, USSR Embassy in India, P.B. No. 241, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110 001).
