

President calls for scientific research in agriculture and industries

"We as a nation possess to our credit, and Engineering Technology running into a period of over 2500 years, which is much valued even today, by the developed nations in the West. Our irrigation tanks built in the days of yore, bear mute testimony to this traditional heritage but it is quite deplorable that today, we have to import technology from beyond seas," President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga told in the keynote address at the Silver Jubilee meeting of the Sri Lanka Institute of Engineers (incorporated) held at BMICH on Sunday.

We need research in the field of agriculture and industries. However, since independence none of the governments so far has given adequate priority to scientific research in these fields.

India is the fourth nuclear power in the world today. That country has risen to such dizzy heights because India gave priority to technology whilst we lagged behind.

She said that in 1994 she gave priority to scientific research as she was familiar with research in some way in the past. She also recalled that she was instrumental in estab-

lishing the National Research Institute and expressed the belief that given the material and necessary facilities the engineers in our country would be able to serve the country better.

Unless activities in the field of research is developed and encourage the professionals, the brain drain in the future would be unavoidable the President added.

She thanked the professionals in the field of technology for the invaluable contribution that they are making towards the well-being of the nation.