

Minister of Labour & Employment gives away FICCI Safety Excellence Awards for Manufacturing

NEW DELHI, September 14, 2012. Mr. Mallikarjun M. Kharge, Union Minister of Labour & Employment, today gave away the **FICCI Safety Excellence Awards for Manufacturing** to seven companies in the large, medium and small size categories at a conference on **'Safety for Sustainable Manufacturing Growth'** organised by FICCI.

The seminar focused on the issues such as behavioural safety techniques; promoting safety in green technologies; safety regulations-enforcement and good governance and innovative safety practices.

Mr. Kharge said, "Sustainable growth in the Manufacturing Sector can be ensured only by giving an impetus to the safety and health of the workforce in this vital sector. It is essential for the manufacturers to initiate continual improvement programmes with an aim to achieve zero accidents and improved productivity. In this direction the Ministry of Labour and Employment has initiated certain incentives and motivational schemes to recognise best productivity and safety practices by industries and individuals."

"It is significant to note that for sustaining industrial growth, preserving available resources is essential as accidental losses are detrimental to growth. Safety management system is recognised as a 'Management Tool' for conserving resources and enhancing sustainability and prosperity not only at unit level but also at the industry level. The Integrated Safety Management System aims at minimising the chances of accidents, injuries, occupational diseases and other loss producing incidents through implementation of effective risk management techniques and better abidance of standards, codes of practices and statutes. This also leads to improvements in working conditions at workplace and well being of the workers," he explained.

Mr. Kharge stated, "The Government of India has declared the National Policy on Safety, Health and Environment at Workplace. The national policy and programme envisages total commitment and demonstration by all concerned stakeholders such as Government and social partners. I take this opportunity to appeal to the leaders of Indian industry and all other stakeholders to initiate the process of implementing the policy and draw a suitable action plan for its implementation in its true letter and spirit."

"These aspects will not only ensure the sustainable development in the manufacturing sector but also ensuring safety and health as an integral part of all business activities. I am sure you are all aware that the cost of an accident is very much high compared to that of its prevention and hence it is said that integration of Safety and Health in all business activities is imperative for ensuring country's Healthy Economy," said Mr. Kharge.

Dr. Mrutyunjay Sarangi, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, pointed out, “India’s safety track record needs to be improved. At present, it cannot be termed either as good or bad.” He said there are only two ways for industries to move forward with respect to the health and safety policy – voluntary compliance and enforcement of law. Industry should understand the significance of this law and adopt it voluntarily instead of giving the Government an opportunity to enforce it.

Mr. R V Kanoria, President, FICCI, stated that decent and safe work environment must be provided to all workers. The rise in the number of fatal injuries in recent years have been a cause of concern for the industry. Hence, besides the adoption of policy it is necessary to strengthen the implementation of these policies. Also unorganised sector which comprises 90% of manufacturing industry is vulnerable and needs utmost attention.

Dr. Arbind Prasad, Director General, FICCI, remarked that the manufacturing sector in future needs to grow at a rate of 12-14%. For this target to be achieved, the sector needs to adopt the best safety practices. Some industries have initiated the process and FICCI is facilitating their efforts.

Mr. Shyam Bang, Executive Director, Jubilant Life Sciences Ltd & Member, FICCI Manufacturing Committee, who spearheaded the FICCI Safety Excellence Awards for Manufacturing, said that the awards will encourage the industry and motivate other industry players to adopt safety and health policy measures for their workers.

List of Awardees - 2nd FICCI Safety Excellence Awards for Manufacturing

- The Platinum Award (First Prize) in Large Size Category was awarded to Cairn India Limited (Ravva Offshore & Onshore facilities), East Godavari Dist.
- The Gold Award (Second prize) in Large Size Category was bagged by Larsen & Toubro Limited (Heavy Engineering IC), Mumbai.
- The Gold Award (Second prize) in Large Size Category was given to Ambuja Cements Ltd. (Maratha Cement Works), Dist. Chandrapur.
- The Platinum Award in Medium Size Category was received by Chemplast Sanmar Limited (PVC Plant), Mettur Dam.
- The Gold Award in Medium Size Category was given to Schneider Electric India Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad.
- The Silver Award in Medium Size Category was awarded to ITC Ltd. (PSPD Unit-Bollaram), Andhra Pradesh.
- The Platinum Award in Small Size Category was received by ATC Limited, Hosur.

The jury members for FICCI Safety Awards 2012 comprised Dr. R Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India; Mr. Surendra Singh, Former Cabinet Secretary; Mr. Sompal, Former Minister of Agriculture and Member of Parliament; Mr. Rohit Relan, Managing

Director, Bharat Seats Limited and Mr. Shyam Bang, Executive Director, Jubilant Life Sciences Limited.

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