

**"Safety for Sustainable Manufacturing growth" and
"FICCI Safety Excellence Awards for Manufacturing Sector"
14th September, 2012, FICCI House, New Delhi**

Address by Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Minister for Labour & Employment.

Shri R. V. Kanoria, President, FICCI,
Dr. Arbind Prasad, Director General, FICCI,
Mr. Shyam Bang, Executive Director, Jubilant Life Sciences Ltd. & Member-FICCI,
Distinguished Guests,
Friends from the Media,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am extremely happy to be here with you today for presentation of the "FICCI Safety Excellence Awards for Manufacturing Sector" and the Conference being organised by FICCI on "Safety for Sustainable Manufacturing Growth".

As these awards are presented to the firms and companies in recognition of their commitment to safety systems at work place, these Awards will surely be a source of motivation and would act as a catalyst for encouraging managements to adopt the work practices, benchmarked as the best, in this vital sector of our economy. I extend my hearty congratulations to all the winners who are present here from various places representing a wide spectrum of industry.

Sustainable development aims at the development as the means to satisfy the needs of present generation without compromising the resources of future generations. It implies serious business where the manufacturing organizations have to be seen as social partners not just as profit centres promoting the economic interests of their shareholders, but also as business entities having obligation towards various stakeholders including the employees in providing decent, safe and healthy working conditions.

Today, with increasing globalization, greater environmental and social awareness, the concept of organization's responsibilities beyond the legal or profit related aspects has gained new momentum. In order to succeed, in the present competitive global world order, business has to be seen acting responsibly towards people, planet and profit. Thus, the concept of triple "P" bottom line accountability of people, planet and profit is becoming more of a necessity in the manufacturing sector for achieving sustainable economic growth and to make our country a global manufacturing hub.

The manufacturing Sector in our country is a significant contributor to our GDP. With the economy growing at high pace, it is a challenge for the champions of the industries to work to achieve the targeted growth and scale up their operations. I am sure in such a scenario, 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 of our economy.

In this context, it is essential that the manufacturers need to initiate continual improvement programmes with an aim to achieve zero accidents in their organization and improved productivity. In this direction the Ministry of Labour and Employment is operating certain incentives/motivational schemes such as National Safety Awards (NSA), Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP) and Prime Minister's Shram Award (PMSA) scheme to recognise best productivity and safety practices by industries as well as individuals.

Needless to say that in the integrated world of today, Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) issues have emerged as global issues and have become an important parameter for global competition. It is heartening to note that the Safety, Health and Environment issues have emerged as important dimensions of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and many progressive manufacturing organizations across the globe including India are displaying their commitment towards the CSR. A strong Safety, Health and Environment Culture is a bed rock of a healthy economy.

It is very significant to note that for sustaining industrial growth, preserving available resources is very 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 minimizing 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. 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 stake holders 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.

With these few words, I once again congratulate all the award winners and wish this conference a great success and I formally inaugurate the same.

JAI HIND