

Babrala Plant, Tata Chemicals Ltd. receives CII-ITC Sustainability Prize

***-Public confidence in a fast and rapid economic growth can be ensured through sustainability, opined
Jairam Ramesh-***

The National Green Tribunal Bill and creation of a National Environmental Protection Authority will be instrumental in future jurisdiction, regulation and decisions related to the environment. Through such mechanisms the Government wants to ensure economic growth and demonstrating environmental sensitivity. Public confidence in rapid economic growth can be ensured through sustainability, opined Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment & Forests (Independent Charge), Government of India.

He was speaking at the presentation ceremony of the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2009 organized by the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development. The annual Awards are given out to recognise and reward excellence in economic, environmental and social performance. The Sustainability Prize for Independent Unit went to the Babrala Plant of Tata Chemicals Ltd. The Certificate of Commendation for Significant Achievement for Independent Unit was given to Hirmi Works - Ultratech Cement, Chemicals Division - SRF, Vadodara Light Factory - Philips, Bhilai Steel Plant - SAIL and Hazira Plant - Essar Steel. Certificate of Commendation for Significant Achievement for Large Businesses was won by Tata Steel, NTPC Ltd. And Toyota Kirloskar Motors. The Certificate of Commendation for Strong Commitment in the Independent Unit went to BHEL - Hyderabad, NTPC - Rihand, ONGC - Hazira, and Durgapur Steel Plant - SAIL. Certificate of Commendation for Strong Commitment for the large business category was won by Binani Cement, Shree Cement, GTL, Tata Tinsplate, Yes Bank, TCS, Maruti Suzuki and Hindustan Zinc. The jury did not find a worthy winner for the highest category of the Awards, the Role Model Trophy. The Minister, while giving away the Awards, stated that such awards help in amplifying business responsibility towards sustainable practices.

Mr. Jairam Ramesh added that domestic cap-and-trade certification system involving energy efficiency is under development. Companies exceeding the requisite benchmark levels could sell it to those who lag, paving the way for a market-based mechanism for energy efficiency norms. The minister also announced that a Comprehensive Environment Protection India Report will be released by the ministry on December 21, 2009, based on a study of 80 industrial clusters. Ranking of these clusters will be undertaken based on their sensitivity towards the environment, land and water, ensuring pollution norms are being met. Today sustainability concerns are not just CSR but part of corporate mainstream. Public pressure on the business and government is instrumental in demonstrating sustainable development. The civil society can come for the concerns over water usage; demands placed by industry on forest resources, carbon dioxide emissions, etc.

Mr. Y C Deveshwar, Past President, CII, Chairman of the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development Advisory Council and Chairman ITC Ltd. stated that market incentives to ensure prevention of depletion of natural resources and augmentation of sustainable practices are imperative. Meaningful progress is often impeded as market does not reward these performers. The Sustainability Awards by CII are aimed at rewarding sustainable practices by business units. This year out of 84 companies indicated intent to vie for the awards, and 54 were found to be eligible for assessment by the experts and the Jury.

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