

# 15 companies get in-house R&D award

By Business Times Bureau

NEW DELHI, November 30: Fifteen companies have been presented this year's national awards for outstanding in-house research and development (R&D) achievements given by the department of scientific and industrial research (DSIR)

Presenting the awards minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi said the industry's shared only 26 per cent of the national expenditure on research and development (R&D) and urged the industry to increase their R&D investment to at least 2 per cent of the annual turnover from the current 0.6 per cent.

DSIR additional secretary Ashok Parthasarathi pointed out that only 743 patents were filed by the 1250 recognised in-house R&D units in the last four years. A DSIR survey also revealed during the same period the 4-laboratory network of CSIR filed over 900 patents. Yet, by international standards and also in relation to countries like China, such patenting effort was miniscule, he added.

The ninth national conference on in-house R&D with the theme "The New Intellectual Property Regime: implications of industry and R&D" was also held for two days this week.

The national awards were instituted in 1987 to provide recognition to good work done by these industrial R&D units. So far, 66 companies have won the coveted award.

In the drugs and pharmaceuticals sector, the award was given to SOL Pharmaceuticals, Hyderabad. Cosmos Films Ltd, Aurangabad, got it in the chemical and allied industries sector. Wockhardt Ltd, Aurangabad, has got it for biotech industries.

There were two winners in the electrical category: Kirloskar Electric Company, Bangalore and Mysore, and Secure Meters, Udaipur. In the electronics sector, Bangalore-based public sector giant Bharat Electronics Ltd, got the award.

Anupam Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore, was the winner in the mechanical engineering sector while MPR Refractories Ltd, Hyderabad, has got it for the processing industries category. Agro industries has two awardees in the Indo-American Hybrid Seeds, Bangalore, and Jain Plastics and Chemicals Limited, Jalgaon.

Sponge Iron India Ltd has got the award for best energy conservation. The award for the pollution control and environmental protection was won by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, 170 Anipet.