

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NEED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEEDS OF A GROWING ECONOMY AND THE INTEREST OF
WORKERS: DR. MANMOHAN SINGH
SHRAM AWARDS FOR 2008, 2009 AND 2010 PRESENTED TO WORKERS FOR EXCELLENCE

New Delhi, 21 Asvina 1933

13 October, 2011

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh today presented Shram Awards for the year 2008, 2009 and 2010 to the winners for their skills, craftsmanship, efficiency and excellence in their works at a function organised herein Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion he said healthy worker- management relations are fundamental to industrial progress and development. Workers and management have a symbiotic relationship and both sides need to work in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation, without losing sight of the overall national objective of progress.

The prime Minister said the government is committed to doing everything possible to ensure good industry-labour relations. There is a view that our labour laws are sometimes felt to be too rigid and are a constraint on our growth impulses. There is also a contrary view that the labour legislation needs to better protect the interests of workers, particularly in the unorganized and the contract labour sectors. Clearly, there are areas where there is a need to strike a balance between the needs of a growing economy and the interests of working people. Though Government is working on several fronts to streamline labour legislation for the welfare of workers, we are also aware that there are many areas of labour legislation that may require reform to encourage business and enterprise. We will move ahead only in those areas where a broad consensus for reform is built and will ensure that the interests of our workers are fully protected in doing so.

He expressed concern on some incidents of industrial unrest and said we need to address this issue with alacrity and sincerity. He said The Eleventh Five Year Plan was especially focused on education and we intend to place special emphasis on Health in the Twelfth Plan.

Dr. Manmohan Singh said The National skill Development Mission launched in the Eleventh Plan has put in place a Coordinated Action Plan for Skill Development. This lays down a solid foundation for future work in this vital area of national importance. During the Twelfth Plan, we must identify the gaps in the institutional arrangements for Skill Development and plug them effectively. We have established the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) which along with initiatives at the state level will provide the bulk of the Skill Development results, particularly in the unorganized sector. But for this to happen, support to NSDC would have to be significantly enhanced and State Skill Development Missions in all States would have to be fully operational and effective during the Twelfth Plan.

Dr. Manmohan Singh congratulated the individuals and organizations winning the Shram Awards and expressed the hope that their work and achievements will be a source of inspiration to others.

Earlier welcoming the Prime Minister Union Labour and Employment Minister Shri Mallikarjun Kharge said Optimum utilization of resources, quantum increase in productivity and efficiency are the pressing demands on the Indian Industry in the present competitive environment. We have to increase our competence to compete in the world market. These objectives cannot be achieved unless management bodies, workers, trade unions come together and help evolve an ethos and work culture that is required for attaining these goals. Only with such collective and substantive joint effort, will it be possible to achieve the levels of excellence, which alone can lead to industrial growth, development and progress.

Government of India firmly believes that without safe, clean environment as well as healthy working conditions, social justice and economic growth cannot be achieved. The goal of continual improvement towards achieving and sustaining decent, safe and healthy working conditions can be realized only with the full commitment and involvement of all stakeholders. The policies and programmes on occupational safety and health have to be given a shift from focusing on accident prevention activities to creating a culture of workers welfare. A judicious mix of regular monitoring through inspections and safety and health training and awareness can help to promote this culture.

He said we have accorded high priority to the matter of ensuring the welfare and well being of workers, particularly those in the unorganized sector. The Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted by the Government to provide social security to workers in the unorganized sector. The Ministry has constituted a National Social Security Board for recommending formulation of Social Security Schemes. The Government has set up Welfare Funds for providing welfare measures to the Beedi, non coal mine and cine workers. The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana covering BPL family members in the unorganized sector provides health insurance of Rs.30,000/- per annum to a family of five. The coverage of the scheme has been extended to all districts of the country. It is proposed to cover all 6 crores BPL families by 2013-14. The Minister also quoted the UPA chairpersons views for the policy of inclusive growth for the welfare of the 'Aam Aadmi' and said this is the time for consolidation and an opportunity to reach out to each section of society, in each region of the country and connect with the masses.

Shri Kharge appealed to all industrial establishments in the country to introduce worker-participative schemes like Suggestion/Feedback, Quality Circles, Small group activities etc. in a big way to harness and leverage the hidden potential of our work force at plant level. He also fervently requested the trade Union fraternity to co-operate with the managements to make these worker participative schemes successful. He said I am confident that the Award Scheme operated by the Government will continue to make significant contribution in motivating our workers, unions and managements alike for expeditious industrial development of our country in the years to come.

Following is the list of awardees who were given away the awards at the occasion:

Prime Minister's ShramAwards, 2008

SHRAM RATNA

Shri Nagaraja, Senior Technical Assistant,
Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore

PUBLIC SECTOR

SHRAM BHUSHAN

- 1 Shri Rajendran.S, Artisan Grade 1,
Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd, Bangalore
2. Shri Pilla Siva Desa Patrudu, Foreman (Mechanical),
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., Visakhapatnam.

SHRAM VIR/ SHRAM VEERANGANA

- 1 Shri Sagiraju Bapi Raju, Chargeman (Mechanical),
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., Visakhapatnam.
- 2 S/ Shri
Rati Kanta Mishra, Senior Technician
 - (i) Kalu Charan Moharana, Senior Technician,
 - (ii) Herman Toppo, Senior Technician,
 - (iii) Purnananda Kumar Barik, Senior Technician,
 - (iv) Dusmanta Kumar Mekap, Senior Technician,
 - (v) Dinabandhu Das, Senior Technician,
(All from SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant, Rourkela)
3. Shri Boyina Lakshmana Raju, Chargeman (Mechanical),
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., Visakhapatnam.
4. Shri Chidipudi. Venkata Reddy, Senior Chargeman (Electrical)
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., Visakhapatnam.

5. Shri Dadi Madhava Rao, Senior Chargeman (Mech.)
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., Visakhapatnam.
6. Shri Haridas Mistry, Artisan Grade-1
Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd, Bhopal.

SHRAM SHREE/ SHRAM DEVI

1. S/ Shri
 - (i) Achyutanand Pandey, Chargeman Cum- Sr. Technician
 - (ii) Brijendra Dhar Dwivedi, Sr. Technician
 - (iii) Amitabh Dutta, Chargeman- Cum- Master Operative
 - (iv) Sanjay Adavadar, Sr. Technician
 - (v) Mohan Lal, Chargeman- Cum- Sr. Technician
(All from SAIL, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai)
2. Shri Mande Prabhakara Rao, Asst. Foreman,
Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd, Hyderabad.
- 3 S/Shri
 - (i) Kumar Sukal Indrman, Mast. Tech. cum Chargeman
 - (ii) Mohd. Umar Khan, Mast. Tech. cum Chargeman
 - (iii) Gireendra Mohan, Mast. Tech. cum Chargeman
 - (iv) Anirudh Prasad Vishwakarma, Mast. Tech. cum Chargeman
 - (v) Avinash Tonape, Sr. Tech. cum Chargeman
(All from SAIL, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai)
- 4 S/Shri
 - (i) Praveen Kumar, Sr. Technician (Electrical)
 - (ii) Harish Kumar Sinha, Chargman-cum-Sr. Tech.(Elec.)
 - (iii) Jasbir Singh, Sr. Technician (Mech.)
 - (iv) Madan Kumar Soni, Sr. Operative
 - (v) Ram Ashray Ram, Sr. Operative
(All from SAIL, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai)
5. Shri Ramadhar Gautam, Working Foreman,
Bharat Heavy Electricals, Ranipur, Haridwar.
6. S/Shri
 - (i) Satyendra Kumar Dewangan, Master operative (Furnace)
 - (ii) Kushank Nikhaley, Chargeman- Cum Master Technician.
 - (iii) Surendra Kumar, Chargeman Cum -Master Operative.
(All from SAIL, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai)
7. Shri Datla Sita Rama Raju, Sr. Technical Assistant 'C'
Naval Science & Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam.
8. Smt. Mamta Dubey, Head Tech Astd.,
ITI Ltd., Mankapur

PRIVATE SECTOR

SHRAM BHUSHAN

- 1 Shri Samarendra Kumar Singh, Foremen
Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)
2. Shri Bhupendra Kumar Rathore, Mechine Tool Operator,
Vikram Cement, Vikram Nagar, MP

SHRAM VIR/ SHRAM VEERANGANA

- 1 Shri Charles Benjamin Pereira, Artisan 'B'
Reliance Infrastructure Ltd., Dahanu Thermal Power, Thane
2. Shri Tarun Kumar Ghosh, Foreman (Electrical Maintenance)
Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)
3. Shri Bijan Kumar Sharma, Foreman
Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)
- 4 Shri Raju Sharma, Foreman,
Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)

- 5 Shri Dharmendra Singh, Instrument Mechanic (Grade -A),
Hindalco Industries Ltd., Renukoot, UP
- 6 Shri V. Sathia, Highly Skilled,
Ashok Leyland, Ennore, Chennai.

SHRAM SHREE/ SHRAM DEVI

1. Shri Dharm Pal Singh, Fitter (A Grade),
Hindalco Industries Ltd., Renukoot, UP.
2. Shri Dalvinder Singh Sohal, Technician,
Grasim Industries Ltd., Birlagram, Nagda, MP.
3. Shri Laxman Singh, Charge Hand (P),
Tata Steel Ltd, Kalaringatta, Jajpur, Orissa.
4. Shri Devdatta Pandurang Chaudhari, Specialist- Electrician
Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Mumbai.
5. Shri Takhatsing Andarsing Baria, Plant Operator,
Transpek Silox industry Ltd., Vadodara.
6. Shri Pramod Prasad, Senior Associate,
Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)
7. Shri Ajit Kumar Joshi, Assistant Foreman,
ACC Ltd., Lakher Cement Works, Distt. Bundi, Rajasthan.
8. Smt. Parwati, Jr. Technician,
Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)

Shri Ravi Mathur, Additional Secretary, M/o Labour & Employment gave the vote of thanks at the conclusion of function.

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