

Independence Day Awards for Inventions and Import Substitution

By

Inventions Promotion Board

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IPB and BAIS announced Independence Day Awards for outstanding inventions and import substitutes for 1970. These Boards were set up by the Ministry of Industrial Development to stimulate inventivity and technological self-reliance for industrial growth of the country. 19 inventors have been awarded a total of Rs 46,000 for 19 inventions of high merit. Another 12 inventors have been sanctioned financial assistance to the extent of Rs 23,000/- for patenting and development of promising ideas. Three of the inventions are awarded Rs. 5,000 each.

Likewise, two gold shields, 8 silver shields, 9 bronze shields and cash awards totalling Rs 82,500 were announced for successful items of import substitution which are expected to give a recurring saving in foreign exchange of approximately Rs 7.16 crores annually. Gold shield has been awarded to the Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute, Pilani for developing the technical knowhow for manufacture of TV sets in the country and a silver shield to each of the 4 manufacturers of TV sets in India, M/s Telestar M/s Telerad, J. K. and Standard for setting up TV industry on a sound footing. Similarly a gold shield has been awarded to Beas Project Authorities for indigenously manufacturing heavy duty construction equipment including a 40 ton Gantry Revolving Crane, hitherto imported, thus effecting a saving of Rs 50 lakhs of foreign

exchange for capital goods.

Established in 1960, the Inventions Promotion Board, which is headed by Prof. M.S. Thacker, an internationally renowned scientist gives awards for successful inventions ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 10,000 and financial assistance upto Rs 25,000 for patenting and development of technically novel and commercially viable ideas into working prototypes. Since its inception, the Board has given 282 awards totalling Rs 3,12,150 and sanctioned financial assistance to the extent of Rs 6,25,023 for development of promising ideas. This includes awards announced on the eve of this Independence Day.

The Board on Awards for Import Substitution, which is headed by Mr. K.B. Rao, Director General, Technical Development, was set up in 1966 following Indo-Pak conflict. The Board gives awards upto Rs 25,000 for successful development of import substitutes. Awards to major industries and research institutions are in the form of shields and merit certificates, whereas to individuals and small scale industry cash awards upto Rs 25,000 are sanctioned. So far the Board has awarded 3 gold shields, 17 silver shields and 33 bronze shields and Rs 1,70,500 as cash awards for items developed successfully as import substitutes. This includes awards announced on the eve of this Independence Day. For the items awarded by the Board, an annual saving of approximately Rs 10 crores is being achieved,