

**The Scheme of
National Awards for Technology Innovation in
Petrochemicals and downstream Plastics Processing
Industry**

- 1 Petrochemicals comprise of plastics and most of other chemicals as downstream hydrocarbons derived from crude oil and natural gas. These hydrocarbons are a valuable resource and constitute vital raw- materials in industry. The value added petrochemical products all along the value chain cater to the needs of textiles and clothing, agriculture, packaging, infrastructure, healthcare, furniture, automobiles, information technology, power, electronics, telecommunications etc.
- 2 The Government of India announced the National Policy on Petrochemicals in April 2007. The policy envisioned the following:
 - Development of value added, quality petrochemical products at globally competitive prices using eco-friendly processes and technologies.
 - Innovation of newer application and products with focus on sustainable development.
- 3 The vision is to be achieved through promotion of Research and Development and Human Resource Planning and Development. Towards furtherance of this objective, the policy envisaged institutionalization of National Awards for Technology Innovation in various fields of Petrochemicals and Downstream Plastic Processing Industry.

R&D Status & its prospects:

- 4 The level of R&D investments in Indian Chemical sector is low at around 0.3% of total sales. The areas for strengthening of R&D in Chemical Industry include improvements in manufacturing process for reduction in cost of production, application development to diversify demand, and new product development. Currently the expenditure on R&D in the Petrochemical sector is less than 1% of industry turnover. This needs to be increased in phases to 2 to 3%. India has a highly trained manpower base. However, as per world industry estimates, inadequate R&D infrastructure is a constraint for attracting

investment in innovation. Ultimately, India stands to lose out in the world of polymer and plastic market if low-cost-high-return programmes are not implemented by the government.

- 5 The future Research & Development vision of the Petrochemical industry needs to provide long term commitment to investment in R&D and strive for continuous innovation in terms of raw material usage, energy efficiency, process/operation improvement, technology forecasting and adoption of emerging technologies, in particular on recycling technologies and development of recycled products etc. It is also felt that new process technologies for high performance polymers (green processes etc.), thrust on new platforms, bio/ nano sciences as enablers for advanced polymeric materials are the need of the hour. At the same time R&D thrust in development of moulds, dies and tools cannot be over emphasized. Collaborative investment through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in technology development by Government, academic Institutions and Industry could push the agenda for R&D in this sector, which will have a long term impact on the Industry.

NEED FOR INNOVATION

- 6 The Petrochemical sector is a key sector of the global (and Indian) economy. At the same time there are public apprehensions about the adverse impact of plastics on environment and health. This concern needs to be addressed by being at the forefront of technology development in this sector as also to enhance the pace of innovation in this field. This on the one hand, would create pressures that would motivate companies to innovate and on the other hand, the environmental concerns will guide sustainable product and process interventions.
- 7 With the above mentioned objectives, Government of India, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals has decided to set up an Award Scheme to incentivize meritorious innovations and inventions in the field of polymeric materials, products, processes and other areas of national and social importance. The polymeric applications has already penetrated in all walks of

life including various manufacturing sectors for conservation of natural resources and energy efficiency etc.

- 8 This innovation award scheme will motivate the inventors to carry out innovative Research & Development in the areas of petrochemicals industry, which in turn will improve performance / quality of the existing product. This award will be on outstanding contribution in R&D leading to better energy consumption, better plastic waste management, increase in product life cycle, development of innovative new products, quality standards, recycling and other emerging areas.

These awards are also intended to enhance innovative capacities to a level of international recognition. The ultimate objective is to develop and maintain the petrochemical industry as a globally competitive industry using eco-friendly processes & technologies

- 9 This scheme will help improve the performance of the existing product and its quality leading to better acceptance and increase in demand of the product in the competitive market of polymer and plastic. This will benefit Micro/Cottage/Small and Medium enterprises as well as larger companies.
- 10 Applicant has to apply **ONLINE/OFFLINE** mode for award under the 11 categories as per prescribed formats.