

Inaugural Session

VOTE OF THANKS

K. S. RAJU, Vice-Chairman, The Fertiliser Association of India, New Delhi



HON'BLE MINISTER SHRI RAM VILAS PASWANJI, Dr. Sarma, Shri Jha, Shri Saha, Distinguished Delegates and the Invitees

I have the honour of performing the pleasant task of proposing a vote of thanks at the conclusion of the inaugural ceremony of the FAI Annual Seminar 2006.

To begin with, Mr. Minister, I was deeply impressed by your in-depth knowledge of the whole sector, of fertiliser demand, supply, etc. We, as an industry, feel extremely happy to support the Government of India and the people of India. We hope, we will receive like support from the government in our efforts. We are deeply indebted to you Sir, for accepting our invitation to inaugurate the seminar for giving us a wonderful address, particularly, in the midst of parliament session taking place. We are also extremely heartened by your assurance that the Ministry will make all its efforts for the growth and well-being of the industry by addressing all our issues, particularly, very burning problem of the non-payment of subsidy bills.

In fact, for your information, in our Board meeting today, we decided to drop the word 'subsidy' from our language. Subsidy is going to the farmers. As far as we are concerned, it is the payment due to the industry. We deeply appreciate the proactive role of the Ministry. A lot of efforts have been made by the Ministry today in regard to the availability of gas which is a critical input is likely to be available to most of the industries by the year 2008-09. Some of the closed urea units particularly in the eastern part will come back in stream a year or two after that. I am sure that under your able guidance, not only the fertilizer sector but also the agriculture sector will be able to grow and we hope we will be able to achieve 4 per cent growth during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

On behalf of the Fertiliser Industry, I thank the members of the diplomatic core, senior government officials for their esteemed presence here today. We are also privileged for the presence of Dr. J. S. Sarma, Secretary (Fertilizers) amongst us today.

I am delighted that the response to this year's seminar is as overwhelming as ever. Over 1200 delegates, including 140 foreign delegates are participating in this year's seminar. We are extremely grateful to you for your participation. In particular, we thank Mr. Luc Maene, Director General, IFA, Paris, Dr. Srafik Ashkar, Director General, Arab Fertilizer Association and Mr. Kafiluddin Ahmed, Chairman Bangladesh Fertilizer Association, Dhaka for their participation in the Seminar.

Our sincere thanks are due to the authors who have prepared excellent papers to be presented in the next two days. We also congratulate all the award winners and appreciate the efforts of the award committees in selection of the awards from the participating committees.

We gratefully acknowledge the support extended to the seminar by the advertisers, the sponsors of the supplement in the newspaper and those who have availed the table space.

We are thankful to the Press, AIR, Doordarshan and other representatives of the media for the coverage and seek their continued support.

We are also thankful to the Management and staff of Hotel Ashok for making excellent arrangements

May I thank you all once again. I now request you all to join us at the Reception being hosted by the MMTC Ltd., New Delhi at Poolside Lawn outside the Convention Hall.

You are all invited to the cocktails and dinner being hosted by the Directors of FAI at 8.00 p.m today at this very place. ■