

indices regarding mosquito names, maps and tables.

Dr Rao was a great source of encouragement and inspiration to younger scientists. The scientific fraternity of India and elsewhere will solely miss the guiding spirit of this doyen of Indian science for many years to come.

Dr T. Ramachandra Rao passed away on 8 November 1984.

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## NEWS

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### NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – AWARDS FOR INVENTORS

The awards for meritorious inventions are announced by the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) twice a year – on Republic Day and on Independence Day.

The following are the recipients of the 1985 awards:

Dr K. S. G. Doss of Madras has been awarded Rs. 25,000/- for the development of 'transient heater'. This is a device incorporated in the pug mill and used in the sugar industry. By this device, the viscosity of the 'C' type massecuite (industrial term for sugar-molasses mixture prior to the removal of molasses) is reduced which helps in the efficient operation of the centrifuge and hence in the recovery of additional quantity of sugar.

Other seven awards, have been shared by the following 15 inventors:

Mr. M. J. Joseph Muthukulathil of Cannanore district of Kerala has been awarded Rs. 15,000/- for the development of 'palm climber'. The inventor has developed this device which enables any person to climb tall trees, especially palm and areca, in all climatic conditions with sufficient security. The device is safe, simple and within the reach of small farmers.

Mr. Pritam Singh Bajwa of Bilaspur (Rampur, U.P.) has been awarded Rs. 15,000/- for the development of 'gobar gas plant, using polythene and angle iron instead of the conventional brick masonry type digestors'. This leak-proof digester is made of low density polythene sheets wrapped around a frame made of angle-iron bamboos. Mr. Bajwa's design enables the digester to be erected in reduced time and cost compared to the conventional method.

Mr. Pretam Singh Takur of Bilaspur, H.P. has been awarded Rs. 10,000 for the development of an 'elev-

ation meter' which is useful for training security personnel.

Mr. Chowdhury Nath Saikia, Mr. Prafulla Pran Barua and Mr. Bani Prasad Chaliha of the Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat have been jointly awarded Rs. 10,000 for the development of 'direct copy paper'. A coating formulation has been developed with locally available materials which could be used to coat one side of the paper. This coated paper can be used for taking copies. The product would be useful for teleprinter rolls, invoices, bills, etc.

Dr Rajendra Kumar, Mr. C. S. Siva Ramakrishnan and Mr. R. K. Mahanti of Jamshedpur, have been awarded certificates of merit for the development of 'NML reactive filter for aluminium and in alloys'. This is a new concept of filtering molten aluminium. The use of the filter reduces the level of dispersed solid particles, inclusion of oxides, dross, etc and improves the grain structure of the cast product.

Mr. P. R. Eknath, Dr Vijay P. Bhatkar, Mr. S. Sasi Kumar, Mr. Shibu Philip, Mr. S. Raja and Mr. S. N. Raja of the Electronics Research and Development Centre, Trivandrum, have been awarded certificates of merit for the development of 'programmable, control of process industries and power plants'.

Dr B. V. Katti of Dharwar has been given a certificate of merit for the development of a 'Kannada typewriter' with 60 type keys to achieve highest speed.

The Corporation has also announced financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 to Mr. K. X. Benedict of Cochin for development of 'mobile pneumatic rock breaker'; in this, a hammer weighing 75 kg will be operated from a pneumatic cylinder for primary crushing of rocks.