

Tata Motors Flashes recently met with two Suggestors of Electrical Maintenance, Truck I and were pleasantly surprised. Not only were they very pleasant to converse with but their body language spoke of their commitment and dedication to their jobs. Meet Mr. S Pal and Mr. K Vinod.



S Pal and his family relax in Jubilee Park

THE INNOVATIVE DUO FROM ELECTRICAL MAINT - TRUCK I

Mr. S Pal

Mr. S Pal, a prolific suggestor, has won approx Rs. 10,000/- for suggestions to modify the electrical circuit to save electrical energy in the old and new frame baking ovens. He told us that during the last financial year he had over 30 of his suggestions awarded and some high value suggestions were in the pipeline awaiting clearance.

Trim and athletically built, Pal belies his years. A second generation Tata man (his father was in Tisco), he joined Tata Motors as an Apprentice way back in 1970. Determined to enhance his qualifications, he completed the 8-year course in Mechanical Engineering from JIT. In his work area, Pal is an SDT member. He is also an active blood donor.

On the home front, his wife Neelam is a teacher, while his three children – Shikha, the eldest, has graduated from

Delhi University and currently works in Pune; Sandeep Khamb, the second, is doing his final year Hotel Management in Goa; and the third, Pratik Khamb is in Class VIII, Tagore Academy.

Pal tells us that his inspiration to achieve has been his mother who, despite being uneducated, has done a remarkable job of bringing up the large family and has even travelled abroad.

We asked him what he planned to do with his prize money. "Well, that will be used to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of my marriage which is round the corner," he confided.

Mr. K Vinod



K Vinod with his wife and young son

K Vinod is yet another of our high value suggestors. He raked in a handsome amount for his suggestions, all on electrical energy saving. He suggested the introduction of timer circuits in power packs to stop idle running of machines and he also suggested introduction of timer circuit in exhausters and pumps in the old and new frame painting areas.

K. Vinod is a second-generation employee, his father too has served Tata Motors. Hailing from sunny Kerala, Vinod did a diploma in Electrical Engineering and later a B.E. from NIT. He joined Tata Motors in 1995 as a Junior Engineer. He is an active member of the Low Cost Automation Group in Plant I. He is also involved in Kaizen, TPM and is as regular a blood donor as one can find (donating blood the permissible 3 times a year).

His eyes light up when he talks of his 3 year old son Aditya, who is studying in Cluny School. His wife Indira is also a brainy sort, being a Math teacher for Plus II in Jamshedpur Public School. When asked how he's used his prize money, he smiles and adds that the prize money has already been put to good use – a secret which he doesn't want to share with us.

Teamwork at its best

The production was at its peak in March'04 and everybody looked worried in CPS. The question haunting everyone's mind was how to load more bodies in PT/ED in each shift to fulfill market demands.

However, an innovative idea from a group of six young men put all worries to rest. These six enthusiastic men are: Mr. R K Sharma, Mr. M Alam, Mr. S K Shyam, Mr. Sudama Gupta, Mr. R Paul and Mr. G Chakrapani. The group brainstormed and then suggested modifying the loading skid of PT/ED to accommodate four LP cowl in place of two (existing) LP cowl, thereby improving the line capacity by 30 jobs/day and saving L-R fuel, electrical power and manpower to the tune of Rs. 18.5 lakhs/year.

Benefits incurred :

1. Line capacity increased by 30 jobs/day
2. Saving of electrical power worth Rs. 6.84 lakhs/year
3. Saving of fuel (LDO) worth Rs. 10.16 lakhs/year
4. Improvement in productivity 13.6%



Seen from L to R are Mr. G Chakrapani, Mr. S K Shyam, Mr. Sudama Gupta, Mr. R K Sharma and Mr. M Alam with Mr. P K Gupta (Manager, CPS Maintenance)



The skid that now accommodates 4 cowl instead of 2

Mr. R K Bansal, suggestion co-ordinator of Truck III, motivated the entire group and very soon the group were able to satisfactorily modify five skids. The production trial run was taken and bodies produced were checked by QA. To everybody's relief, all quality parameters were found to be in line with the requirements. Their quick and fresh thinking also brought the group a handsome monetary award — the Central Suggestion Committee recognized their effort with an award of Rs. 20,000/-.

Here were ordinary men who had come up with an extraordinary idea. When asked how the idea had occurred to them, the group very humbly replied that they keep observing the activities around them and constantly think of more efficient ways to do the same activities. We fully endorse their attitude towards their work and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Honour for Pradeep Chatterjee

Mr. Pradeep Chatterjee, Assistant Manager, HV Transmissions Limited, has been conferred with the "Rashtriya Gaurav Award" by the Indian International Friendship Society (IIFS), New Delhi. The Award and Certificate of Excellence was awarded to him in a function at Kolkata on the 9th October. This Ph.D. scholar from BIT Mesra, with around 16 publications in



several national and international journals and conferences, has been recognized primarily for his contributions in the field of artificial intelligence. He is a reviewer of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), USA and till date has reviewed six international research papers on artificial intelligence.