

## **11<sup>th</sup> National Award for Excellence in Cost Management – 2013**

Friends, I am happy to inform you that in a glittering ceremony on the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Mr. Jayant Sinha, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance presented the 11<sup>th</sup> National Award for Excellence in Cost Management to the Corporates who excelled in the area of cost management for the year 2013 at SCOPE Auditorium, New Delhi. Mr. M.J. Joseph, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs was also present in the function as Special Guest and addressed the participants. 22 Companies were awarded for excellence in cost management practices in 9 different categories belonging to a wide spectrum ranging from manufacturing (Private and Public), Service Sector and then further sub-divided into large, medium and small organizations.

Addressing on the occasion Hon'ble Minister said that this is the age of Cost Accountants as the current business and economic environment needs professionals specialized with numbers and cost conscious mindset. He added that the CMA professionals have to play a very important role in making a success of the Make-in-India concept triggered by Hon'ble Prime Minister. At the same time Hon'ble Minister urged the CMAs to work with integrity and ethics in exercising their knowledge. Addressing the Corporates Hon'ble Minister said that only mantra for job creation is through economic growth. We need to get to a point where we sustain the growth of 7-8 per cent a year, so that we have the chance of absorbing young people who form a sizeable chunk of the demographic profile. He said that though our corporates are cost conscious and selling their product at affordable prices, it is a different ball game when competing globally. He also stressed that the concept of frugal innovation which is unique to India as showcased by the lowest telecom tariff in the entire world has to spread across the other manufacturing and service sectors also. In an interesting anecdotal reference to his earlier consulting years, the Honorable Minister informed a thrilled audience about his detailed exposure to Cost Accounting, which enabled him to appreciate the role of cost and management accounting in the sustainability and growth of any business.

Speaking on the occasion Shri MJ Joseph, Additional Secretary, MCA congratulated the award winners and hoped that this inspires other corporates to join the race of being cost conscious. On Companies (Cost Records and Audit) Rules 2014, he said that the Expert Committee of the MCA will be very shortly presenting its report to the Ministry and the Ministry will implement the views of the Committee as the members of the Committee are very experienced and eminent professionals. He hoped that the matter will be resolved very shortly.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants I expressed my gratitude to the Standing Committee headed by Hon'ble Shri Yashwant Sinha Ji and Ministry of Finance for including the name of Cost Accountant in the definition of Accountant in the Direct Tax Code, 2013 which intends to consolidate the law relating to Income Tax and wealth Tax. I took the opportunity to thank the Chairman and Members of the Jury and Screening Committee of the Awards.

It was mentioned by me to the Hon'ble Minister that the Institute has submitted its request to the Ministry of Finance to ensure important role of Cost and Management Accountants in augmenting Revenue for the Nation. I also added that CMA profession draws continuously from global best practices in financial and management accounting and retunes them according to

the Indian environment taking into account the domestic contents and issues. Although India is well connected to the global economy, to a major extent, we have to identify and nurture domestic strong points on cost competencies to build them into the cost competitiveness of Indian economy. We believe in prioritizing the global practices in a way that it does not have an adverse impact on the domestic economic environment.

CMA PV Bhattad, Vice President of the Institute proposed the vote of thanks.