

## Hindi Day Function

3.00 p.m., 22 September 1999. NAL's S R Valluri Auditorium was ready for the Hindi Day function. The atmosphere was charged with Hindi. Even people not well versed with Hindi were attempting to talk in Hindi.

The function started with a melodious rendition of Veena Vaadini Varade by Mrs B S Pankaja. followed by welcome address by Mrs Saroja Rajagopal, COA in which she mentioned that the Parliamentary Committee which visited NAL to study the implementation of Hindi in NAL was quite impressed by the progress NAL has made in the implementation of Hindi.

The Chief Guest Mr S N Singh, Joint Director, Central Translation Bureau distributed the prizes to the winners in various competitions conducted during the Hindi Week.

Mr S N Singh, in his remarks said that the language is mainly a medium of expression. He said that the primary education must be in mother language and the foreign language can be adopted for higher studies. He added that only then will we be able to think in our mother language. "English has become a symbol of power and prestige" he said and added that it has become an aristocratic attitude. He said this attitude has to be changed.

He recalled that in early 14th century, German was the official language in England. The king was requested to address the joint session of Parliament in English. The rest is history. English has become an international language. It has adopted almost 35 per cent of the words from other languages.

He mentioned that in United States of America, they have introduced Internet and e-mail in Hindi. It is the capital and the profit, which drives the West to learn and develop Hindi. He said we must adopt the words from other languages, use Hindi at all levels and think in Hindi. "English will not allow us to be innovative", he remarked.

Mr S N Singh released the Hindi version of the Director's Report for the year 1998-99 and also released the bi-lingual medical information book.

Prof B K Parida, Head, Structural Integrity Division, delivered the Third Hindi Day Lecture on Rejuvenation of Ageing Aircraft. Prof Parida explained how the "world has shrunk into a small place because of the aircraft. He explained the process of rejuvenation of aircraft, the effects of corrosion and fatigue and other problems of ageing aircraft (known as geriatric problems)."

He added that the rejuvenation is done by replacing the worn out or fatigued components and strengthening the fatigued parts. He said the rejuvenation of aircraft prolongs the life of aircraft and saves millions of rupees needed to purchase new aircraft. He also informed the audience that NAL is poised to become an active IAF partner in the rejuvenation of fighter aircraft.

One has to listen to Prof B K Parida to be convinced that such a serious and highly technical subject like rejuvenation of ageing aircraft can be explained so effortlessly in Hindi.

Dr T S Prahlad, in his presidential remarks declared that in NAL 1999-2000 would be observed as the Golden Jubilee year of the Official Language Implementation. He said that the tradition of arranging technical keynote address is a part of NAL Hindi day celebrations. He recalled the previous Hindi Day lectures given by Dr Srinivas Bhogle and Dr R N Singh.

Mr P S R Murthy, Hindi Officer , in his inimitable and intimate style proposed the vote of thanks.

*K Anantha Rao*