Ocean science award for founder director of Liquid Propulsions Systems Centre

P. Sunderarajan

NEW DELHI: The founder Director of the Thiruvananthapuram-based Liquid Propulsions Systems Centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation and former Secretary of the Department of Ocean Development, A.E. Muthunayagam, has won the National Award for Ocean Science and Technology. Union Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, presented the award at the foundation day celebration of the one-year old Ministry of Earth Sciences here on Friday.

Mr. Chidambaram also presented the National Award for Atmospheric Sciences and Technology to the former Director of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, D.R. Sikka. Dr. Sikka is world renowned for his contributions towards monsoon meteorology, development of numerical weather prediction models and understanding tropical cyclones and droughts.

In addition, the Union Finance Minister presented certificates of merit to 11 senior scientists and engineers of the Ministry of Earth Sciences: S. Ramji and S.V. Phani Kumar of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, R. Suresh and K.G. Suresh Kumar of the Chennai office of India Meteorological Department, T.M. Balakrishnan Nair of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, M.N. Rajeevan, Director, National Climate Centre, Pune, E.N. Rajagopal of National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, K. Krishna Kumar of IITM, R.K. Jenamani, Director in charge of IMD's office at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, and Rahul Mohan and Sushant Suresh Naik of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa. Mr. Chidambaram also presented awards to eight Group B, Group C and Group D employees of the Ministry for exemplary work.

Speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister said the Centre was fully aware of the contributions made by the officers and men of the Ministry of Earth Sciences towards the socio-economic development of the country and said that his Ministry would provide total support to its programmes.