

Shri T. Govindan Kutty Menon

Recipient of Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development-1089

Shri Menon represents that section of the younger generation of India which has set out of an alternative development based on science and technology which is humanised. Though he did not have higher learning in science, he got himself equipped in the subject through hard common sense and practical experience; life has been his laboratory.

By continuously trying out new things through experiments and demonstrations, Shri Menon has given evidence of his scientific spirit. He always believed that science and technology opened up new avenues for human activity, that they would enable man to overcome the limits which were supposed to have been set by the so called natural endowment. This faith made him implant all sorts of plants and trees, whether grasses or fruits, in Kasturbagram, the institution which he has been serving for the last 3 decades. He brought these from all over the country to his farm and demonstrated that, with suitable technique and application, the so far 'alien' trees can also grow in Kasturbagram. The Progeny fruit orchard is a classic example Shri Menon conducts the various units of the institution with the aim of attaining best results, as exemplified by the Goshala whose Gir cows have been adjudged as the best in the country.

Among his most notable contribution is the Energy Plantation, which he has developed with the object of creating non-conventional renewable sources of energy. His success with the solar and wind energy sources has also been commendable. Similarly noteworthy are his attempts for popularising environmental education as typified by the permanent exhibition called 'Ecology in Action'. Shri Menon has thus clearly sensed the worldwide rethinking on development and has proceeded to make Kasturbagram farm an embodiment of Gandhian thinking on rural development.

By selecting Shri T. Govindan Kutty Menon for the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for application of science and technology for rural development, the Trustees of the Foundation feel honoured to recognise his dedicated efforts aimed at imparting the vitally necessary content to the Gandhian model of a village economy.

