

Japanese delegation impressed with Lucas-TVS Quality systems

A team of 25 top management professionals, mostly from the Toyota Group and its suppliers in the Central Japan area, led by Mr. Tadashi Onishi, of JTEKT Corporation (formerly Toyota Machine Works), recently visited Lucas-TVS with the objective of understanding the TQM practices/promotion in the company and exchanging ideas and views. During the visit, Mr. Onishi shared his views on 'Achieving Zero Defect Quality and Toyota's present TQM'.

Addressing the press after the visit of the Japanese team, Mr. T.K. Balaji, Managing Director, Lucas-TVS, said that the delegation was extremely happy with the progress made by the company so far. TQM has enabled the company to get to the zero defect situation. There is still a long way to go, and one of the most important things to do is to innovate and improve with the zero defect totally in mind. Only then could Indian companies join the league of Japanese firms like Toyota which have achieved a milestone in this regard.

Mr. Tadashi Onishi, who is also Chairman of the Central Japan Quality Control Association, said that all the members of his group were delighted to see Indian companies doing extremely well after adapting to Japanese systems of TQM and TPM. As far as Lucas-TVS is concerned, the company is on the right track and is expected to achieve newer developments on the manufacturing front in the next three years. What is special about the company is the informal meeting held by workers every Sunday, in which the President of the company participated,



Mr. Tadashi Onishi, JTEKT Corporation, addressing the press. Mr. Yoshiaki Kodaki, Consul-General of Japan, Chennai, (extreme left), and Mr. T.K. Balaji, Managing Director, Lucas-TVS, look on.

to discuss problems and find solutions.

The Japanese team went through the overall presentation on Lucas-TVS' achievements. The workers made a presentation on QC Circle activities, Sunday work-team, Shainin Design of Experiments and the Daily Routine Management (DRM). The team also had the opportunity to visit the company's R&D Centre and witness various product design activities, product testing, reliability and manufacturing of special-purpose machines.

Mr. Yoshiaki Kodaki, Consul-General of Japan, Chennai, also addressed the gathering.

The Japanese delegation consisted of senior members like Managing Directors, Directors, Presidents, and General Managers from 23 different companies like Jtekt Corporation, NGK Spark Plug Co. Ltd., Yamasei Kogyo Co. Ltd., Aichi Steel Corporation, etc. All of them belong to the Central Japan Quality Control Association (CJQCA), which is a non-profit organi-