

colleges. A scheme whereby the subscribers of *Current Science* may be motivated to gift one year subscription to someone in colleges may be initiated.

Action. The Academies can do certain things without depending on the government policies. For example, making available small grants for writing books to college teachers, and setting up of a national teachers scheme. In the latter case, the fellows selected as national teachers shall be required to spend a minimum of one month in a college, and three months in an academic year at different colleges. During their stay, formal lectures and informal interaction with the students and teachers will be their main duty.

Accountability. Corruption in various forms has become rampant in research and teaching. The Academies can play a very effective role in dealing with this problem. Scientists and Academics found guilty in plagiarism or other frauds¹⁸ can be blacklisted: their work will not be published, their fellowships or titles

awarded by the academies shall be withdrawn, and their names along with their malpractices shall be made public.

Conclusion

We have enough strength and capability, which need to be properly utilized; there are many creative minds, they only need to be identified. The sense of belonging and involvement in the system by all ordinary scientists and Academics should be cultivated. Frustration, helplessness and servile mentality must go; obviously, hard and unpleasant (for few) actions may be necessary for that to happen.

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NEWS

1994 Kalinga Prize

The 1994 Kalinga Prize for the popularization of science has been awarded to Nikolai Nikolaevich Drozdov, Associate Professor of Biogeography at the Moscow State University.

Established by UNESCO in 1951, it is an annual award of £1000 based on a grant to UNESCO from B. Patnaik of the state of Orissa, India, the founder and President of Kalinga Foundation Trust. With the 1994 awardee, the tally now stands at 49 personalities from 19 countries (Jain, N. C., *Curr. Sci.*, 1994, 66, 618-620).

A graduate of Moscow University in 1963, Dr Drozdov has done his doctorate in 1968 on the ornithofauna of the deserts of the USSR.

While working at the Australian National University (Canberra), he pub-

lished a book called *The Flight of the Boomerang* about his journey through Australia, about animals, nature and nature conservation. It instantly became a best-seller and over 100,000 copies of its two editions published in 1980 and 1988 were sold out within a couple of weeks of its release. For the last twenty-three years Dr Drozdov has been presenting a bimonthly television programme called *In the World of Animals*. This highly popular one-hour programme on animal life in the vast CIS territory is watched by approximately 200 million viewers. In 1992 he won the **Golden Panda** for outstanding achievement at the Wildscreen Festival in Bristol. In 1989 he was included in Global 500, a list drawn up by the United Nations Environment Programme of the world's leading

ecologists and specialists in environmental protection.

New appointments

Dr V. S. Ramamurthy, 53, has taken over as Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology in place of Dr P. Rama Rao on 1 July. Ramamurthy, a nuclear physicist, was earlier the Director of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar.

Dr R. A. Mashelkar, 52, has taken over as Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in place of Dr S. K. Joshi on 1 July. Mashelkar, a chemical engineer, was the Director of the National Chemical Laboratory at Pune.