

## A tribute to Mr Darbari Seth

Dr R K Pachauri, August 18, 2011

I am writing these few words on the occasion of our Tenth Darbari Seth Memorial Lecture. We try to organize this lecture close to Mr Darbari Seth's birthday which falls on the 21st of August. I feel this would be an appropriate occasion for me to recall some of Mr Seth's remarkable qualities of which he had a huge treasure. Our founder was a person with a remarkable intellect and what I found most impressive about him was his high sense of enthusiasm for everything that had an element of learning associated with it. Whether it was an interesting scientific concept or an analysis of what may happen in the world in any field in the future, his eyes would light up and his attention would be stimulated by a discussion on any such subject. Mr Seth was extremely hardworking and at the stage when he was chairing over a dozen companies within the Tata group he would sit till late in the evening in his office holding one set of meetings after the other involving the senior management of companies that he was responsible for. His meetings were focused and substantive. His decision making abilities were unique and he would never beat about the bush or tolerate those who would do so.

Seth Saheb was a remarkable manager who was exacting in his expectations of those who worked for him but supportive to the core. It took time to win his trust but once he realized that a person was genuine, capable and committed in his work Mr Seth would give such a person enormous freedom and support in whatever the person did. On this occasion when we are paying tribute to the founder of TERI I hope colleagues will reflect a little on Mr Seth's qualities which cannot possibly be counted easily, but I have tried to list a very small fraction of those that I observed and became familiar with. We are fortunate and blessed that we had a leader like him to help establish TERI.