

## September 6, 2014

National Stock Exchange of India Limited "Exchange Plaza", Bandra – Kurla Complex Bandra East

Mumbai - 400 051

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Scrip Code: 500008

Mumbai - 400 001

Dear Sirs,

Sub: Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting

In compliance with clause 31 (d) of the listing agreement, please find enclosed the minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of the shareholders of our Company held on August 6, 2014.

We request you to take on record and acknowledge the same.

Thank you,

Yours faithfully, For Amara Raja Batteries Limited

M R Rajaram Company Secretary





MINUTES OF THE TWENTY NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF AMARA RAJA BATTERIES LIMITED HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014 AT EDISON HALL AT THE REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE COMPANY SITUATED AT RENIGUNTA — CUDDAPAH ROAD, KARAKAMBADI, TIRUPATI — 517 520 AT 11:30 AM

#### **Present**

#### **Directors**

Dr. Ramachandra N Galla Chairman and Member

Mr. Jayadev Galla Vice Chairman and Managing Director and Member

Mr. Bruce Ronning Jr. Director
Mr. Shu Qing Yang Director

Mr. Raymond J Brown Director

Mr. P. Lakshmana Rao Director (Chairman of the Audit Committee)

Mr. N. Sri Vishnu Raju Director Mr. Nagarjun Valluripalli Director

#### Members

31 members in person and 19 members through proxies duly appointed were present at the time of commencement of meeting.

#### **Auditors**

Mr. E Phalguna Kumar, Mr. E Chaitanya Partners of M/s. E. Phalguna Kumar & Co, Chartered Accountants, Tirupati and Mr. K Rajaji, Representative of M/s. Chevuturi Associates Chartered Accountants, Vijayawada attended the meeting.

Mr. V Suresh, Pracitising Company Secretary who was appointed as scrutinizer also attended the meeting.

Dr. Ramachandra N Galla took the Chair in accordance with Article 72 of the Articles of Association of the Company. The Chairman welcomed the members and introduced the directors on the dais, the auditor(s) and management team of the Company seated off the dais. He then stated that the requisite quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

He further stated that the Register of Directors and Key Managerial Personnel & their Shareholding, Register of Contracts or Arrangements in which the Directors are interested, draft letter of appointment to be issued to the independent directors and other documents contained in the Notice of 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting were available for inspection of the members.

With the concurrence of the members present, the notice convening the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company together with the annual report 2013-14 was taken as read. The Chairman informed the members that the Auditors' Report did not contain and the contai

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qualifications or observations. Accordingly, with the permission of the members the Auditor's Report was taken as read.

The Chairman then delivered his speech and thereafter the Vice Chairman and Managing Director addressed the members, the texts of which are appended to this minute.

Thereafter, the Chairman requested Mr. M R Rajaram, Company Secretary to brief the members on the changes introduced in the new Companies Act 2013, relating to the AGM proceedings.

Mr. M R Rajaram, Company Secretary stated that as per the provisions of Companies Act, 2013 (Act) and the rules made thereunder and clause 35B of the listing agreement entered into with the stock exchanges, the Company had provided e-voting facility to the members and also postal ballot to those members who were unable to access e-voting facility to exercise their vote on all the resolutions set out in the notice of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Company (AGM Notice). The E-voting commenced at 9.00 AM IST on July 31, 2014 and ended on August 2, 2014 at 6.00 PM IST. He then stated that as per the provisions of the Act, all resolutions proposed in this AGM Notice shall be decided through Poll and not by show of hands.

He further stated that those shareholders who had not exercised their vote through e-voting/postal ballot and those shareholders who held shares as on June 30, 2014 being cut-off date for e-voting can participate in the poll to be ordered by the Chairman at this Meeting.

He further stated that Mr. V Suresh, Practicing Company Secretary was appointed as the Scrutinizer for the e-voting/postal ballot and Poll at this AGM and post conclusion of the poll, the Scrutinizer would consolidate the results of the e-voting/postal ballot and the results of the Poll at this meeting and submit the combined report to the Chairman.

He briefly read out the businesses set out in the AGM Notice and requested the Chairman to take over the proceedings.

The Chairman before ordering for the poll invited observations, comments and questions if any, from the members present on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2014.

As there were no questions from the members, the Chairman ordered the poll on all resolutions for the ordinary and special businesses set out in item nos. 1 to 13 of the Notice convening the 29<sup>th</sup> AGM and requested all the members and proxy holders present and entitled to vote, to participate in the poll.

On request from the Chairman, Mr. M R Rajaram, Company Secretary briefed the members on the procedures to be followed by members with regard to poll process.

The Chairman after ascertaining on all the members and/or proxies entitled to vote exercised their votes; stated that the business of the meeting was concluded.

He invited Mr. V Suresh, Scrutinizer to take over the Ballot box and requested to submit the combined report (e-voting, postal ballot and Poll) to him not later than 2:00 PM on August 7, 2014.

He declared that on receipt of Scrutinizers report on the poll, the results of voting shall be declared on or before 6:00 PM on August 7, 2014. He stated that the combined report (e-voting, postal ballot and Poll) of the Scrutinizer shall be uploaded on the Company's website <a href="www.amararaja.co.in">www.amararaja.co.in</a>. He further stated that results to be declared for each resolution would be intimated to BSE Limited and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited, where the shares of the Company are listed.

The Chairman then declared the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Company as concluded and thanked the members for attending the meeting.

Result(s) of the Electronic Voting, Postal ballot and Poll on the Ordinary and Special Businesses at the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 as per combined Scrutinizer report dated August 6, 2014

The following resolutions for the ordinary and special businesses as set out in Item Nos. 1 to 13 in the notice of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Company have been duly passed unanimously/with requisite majority as detailed below.

#### **Ordinary Business**

#### Item no. 1: Adoption of financial statements for the financial year 2013-14

**"RESOLVED** that the audited balance sheet as at March 31, 2014, the statement of profit and loss and the cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, together with the notes thereon, the report of the auditor's and the report of the directors as placed before the meeting be and are hereby received, considered and adopted."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast							
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast	against	Invalid vote	s		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Electronic Voting (A)	77009447	100.00	NA	NA	39819	-		
Postal Ballot (B)	24274	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA NA	NA	NA	NA		
Voting Result (A+B+C)	124258451	100.00	NA	NA	39819	pag .		

The above ordinary resolution carried unanimously.



### Item no. 2: Declaration of dividend for the financial year 2013-14

"RESOLVED that a dividend of Rs. 3.23/- per equity share of Re. 1/- each (323%) as recommended by the board be and is hereby declared on the equity share capital of the Company for the financial year ended March 31, 2014 and that the said dividend be paid to those members whose name(s) appear in the Register of Members of the Company as on August 6, 2014 and in respect of shares held in dematerialised form to those beneficial owners as per details furnished by the depositories as on July 31, 2014."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast ag	jainst	Invalid votes				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	77049266	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Postal Ballot (B)	24274	100.00	NA	NA	NA NA	NA			
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA NA	NA	NA NA	NA			
Voting Result (A+B+C)	124298270	100.00	NA	NA	NA NA	NΑ			

The above ordinary resolution carried unanimously.

## Item no. 3: Re-appointment of Mr. Shu Qing Yang (DIN:0196660) as a director

**"RESOLVED** that Mr. Shu Qing Yang (DIN 01916660) who retires in terms of Article 105 (a) of the Articles of Association of the Company and being eligible for re-appointment, be and he is hereby re-appointed as a director of the Company."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast against		Invalid vot	25			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	76687422	99,93	50110	0.07	311734	-			
Postal Ballot (B)	24254	99.92	20	0.08	NA	NA			
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA	NA	NA NA	NA			
Voting Result (A+B+C)	123936406	99.96	50130	0.04	311734				

The above ordinary resolution carried with requisite majority.

# Item no. 4: Re-appointment of Dr. Ramachandra N Galla (DIN: 00133761) as a director

**"RESOLVED** that Dr. Ramachandra N Galla (DIN 00133761) who retires in terms of Article 105 (a) of the Articles of Association of the Company and being eligible for re-appointment be and he is hereby re-appointed as a director of the Company."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast a	against	Invalid votes				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	76117574	99.81	146658	0.19	785034	-			
Postal Ballot (B)	24254	99.92	20	0.08	NA	NA			
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Voting Result (A+B+C)	123366558	99.88	146678	0.12	785034	-			

The above ordinary resolution carried with requisite majority.

Item no. 5: Appointment of joint statutory auditors of the Company

**"RESOLVED** that M/s. E Phalguna Kumar & Co., Chartered Accountants, Tirupati, Firm Registration No. 002644S and M/s. Chevuturi Associates, Chartered Accountants, Vijayawada, Firm Registration No. 000632S be and they are hereby appointed as joint statutory auditors of the Company to hold office from the conclusion of this annual general meeting until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company and the Board of Directors be and they are hereby authorised to fix the remuneration to the Auditors."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast	against	Invalid votes				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	76770079	99.68	243905	0.32	35282	-			
Postal Ballot (B)	24134	99.42	140	0.58	NA	NA			
Poll (C)	47083774	99.70	140956	0.30	NA	NA			
Voting Result (A+B+C)	123877987	99.69	385001	0.31	35282	NA			

The above ordinary resolution carried with requisite majority.

#### **Special Business**

## Item no. 06: Ratification of remuneration to cost auditors for the financial year 2014-15

"RESOLVED that pursuant to the provisions of Section 148 and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act) and the Companies (Audit and Auditory) Rules, 2014 (including any statutory modification(s) or re-enactment thereof), M/s/Sagar &

Associates, Cost Accountants, Hyderabad, Firm Registration No. 000118, the Cost Auditors appointed by the Board of Directors, to conduct the audit of the cost records of the Company for the financial year 2014-15 at a remuneration of Rs. 2,50,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand only) plus reimbursement of out of pocket expenses and applicable taxes be and is hereby ratified.

**RESOLVED FURTHER** that any of the director or the key managerial personnel be and they are hereby severally authorised to do all acts and take all steps as may be necessary, proper or expedient to give effect to this resolution."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast	against	Invalid votes				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	77044230	100.00	NA	NA	5036	_			
Postal Ballot (B)	24084	99.22	190	0.88	NA	NA			
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Voting Result (A+B+C)	124293044	100.00	190	0.00	5036				

The above ordinary resolution carried with requisite majority.

## Item no. 07: Appointment of Mr. P Lakshmana Rao as an Independent Director

**"RESOLVED** that pursuant to the provisions of sections 149, 152 and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act), the Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014 read with Schedule IV to the Act, as amended from time to time and clause 49 of the listing agreement entered into with the stock exchanges, Mr. P Lakshmana Rao (DIN: 01463507), who was appointed as a Director liable to retire by rotation under the Companies Act, 1956 and in respect of whom the Company has received a notice in writing under Section 160 of the Act from a member proposing his candidature for the office of Director, be and is hereby appointed as an Independent Director of the Company to hold office for a term of five consecutive years effective from August 6, 2014."

Voting details on the following resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast	against	Invalid votes				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	74323648	96.51	2690102	3,49	35516	-			
Postal Ballot (B)	24244	99.88	30	0.12	NA .	NA			
Poll (C)	47083774	99.70	140956	0.30					
Voting Result (A+B+C)	121431666	97.72	2831088	2.28	35516	alleri			

The above ordinary resolution carried with requisite majority.

## Item no. 08: Appointment of Mr. Nagarjun Valluripalli as an Independent Director

"RESOLVED that pursuant to the provisions of sections 149, 152 and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act), the Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014 read with Schedule IV to the Act, as amended from time to time and clause 49 of the listing agreement entered into with the stock exchanges, Mr. Nagarjun Valluripalli (DIN: 00034389), who was appointed as a Director liable to retire by rotation under the Companies Act, 1956 and in respect of whom the Company has received a notice in writing under Section 160 of the Act from a member proposing his candidature for the office of Director, be and is hereby appointed as an Independent Director of the Company to hold office for a term of five consecutive years effective from August 6, 2014."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes o	ast against	Invalid votes				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	77044230	100.00	NA	NA	5036	-			
Postal Ballot (B)	24244	99.88	30	0.12	NA	NA			
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Voting Result (A+B+C)	124293204	100.00	30	0.00	5036	-			

The above ordinary resolution carried with requisite majority.

#### Item no. 09: Appointment of Mr. N Sri Vishnu Raju as an Independent Director

"RESOLVED that pursuant to the provisions of sections 149, 152 and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act), the Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014 read with Schedule IV to the Act, as amended from time to time and clause 49 of the listing agreement entered into with the stock exchanges, Mr. N Sri Vishnu Raju (DIN: 00025063), who was appointed as a Director liable to retire by rotation under the Companies Act, 1956 and who retires at this Annual General Meeting, be and is hereby appointed as an Independent Director of the Company for a term of five consecutive years effective from August 6, 2014."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast against		Invalid votes				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	58538797	75.98	18505433	24.02	5036	. н			
Postal Ballot (B)	24244	99.88	30	0.12	NA	ΝA			
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NΑ			
Voting Result (A+B+C)	105787771	85.11	18505463	14.89	5036				

The above ordinary resolution carried with requisite majority.

## Item no. 10: Appointment of Mr. T R Narayanaswamy as an Independent Director

**"RESOLVED** that pursuant to the provisions of sections 149, 152 and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act), the Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014 read with Schedule IV to the Act, as amended from time to time and clause 49 of the listing agreement entered into with the stock exchanges, Mr. T R Narayanaswamy (DIN: 01143563), who was appointed as a Director liable to retire by rotation under the Companies Act, 1956 and in respect of whom the Company has received a notice in writing from a member under Section 160 of the Act proposing his candidature for the office of Director, be and is hereby appointed as an Independent Director of the Company for a term of five consecutive years effective from August 6, 2014."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast against		Invalid votes				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	58539297	75.98	18505433	24.02	4536	н			
Postal Ballot (B)	24244	99.88	30	0.12	NA	NA			
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Voting Result (A+B+C)	105788271	85.11	18505463	14.89	4536				

The above ordinary resolution carried with requisite majority.

## Item no. 11: Appointment of Mr. Raymond J Brown as an Independent Director

"RESOLVED that pursuant to the provisions of sections 149, 152 and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act), the Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014 read with Schedule IV to the Act, as amended from time to time and clause 49 of the listing agreement entered into with the stock providinges,

Mr. Raymond J Brown (DIN: 01916646), who was appointed as a Director liable to retire by rotation under the Companies Act, 1956 and in respect of whom the Company has received a notice in writing from a member under Section 160 of the Act proposing his candidature for the office of Director, be and is hereby appointed as an Independent Director of the Company for a term of five consecutive years effective from August 6, 2014."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast	against	Invalid votes				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	76732620	100.00	110	0.00	316536	-			
Postal Ballot (B)	24274	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Voting Result (A+B+C)	123981624	100.00	110	0.00	316536	-			

The above ordinary resolution carried with requisite majority.

Item no. 12: Appointment of Mr. Vikramadhitya Gourineni, a relative of director as a Management Executive under Section 314 of the Companies Act, 1956

**"RESOLVED** that pursuant to the provisions of Section 314 (1) (b) read with the Director's Relatives (Office or Place of Profit) Rules, 2003 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 1956, consent of the Company be and is hereby accorded to Mr. Vikramadithya Gourineni, relative of a Director of the Company, for holding/continuing to hold office or place of profit under the Company as Management Executive at a remuneration of Rs. 2.01 million (CTC) per annum, effective from August 16, 2013."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast								
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast	against	Invalid votes				
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Electronic Voting (A)	77044130	100.00	100	0.00	5036	-			
Postal Ballot (B)	24084	99.22	190	0.78	NA	NA			
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Voting Result (A+B+C)	124292944	99.99	290	0.01	5036	NA			

The above special resolution carried with requisite majority.



## Item no. 13: Approval to enter into lease agreement with Amara Raja Infra Private Limited

"RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 188 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act 2013 and the Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014 (including any statutory modification(s) or re-enactment thereof) consent of the members of the Company be and is hereby accorded to the Board of Directors for entering into a lease agreement with M/s. Amara Raja Infra Private Limited to take on lease land admeasuring 12 acres, for the setting up of amenities like hostel and canteen for workmen, situated at Majara Kothapalli Village of Yadamarri Mandal and/or Nunegundlapalle Village of Bangarupalyam Mandal in Chittoor District for a period of 99 years with effect from September 1, 2014 or such other date as may be agreed to by the parties, for a total lease consideration of Rs. 57.00 million (including Rs. 36.00 million towards development/ user charges payable from time to time)."

"RESOLVED FURTHER that for the purpose of giving effect to this resolution, the board be and is hereby authorised to finalise, settle and execute such documents/deeds/writings/agreements as may be required and do all such acts, deeds and things, as it may in its absolute discretion deem necessary, proper and to settle any question, difficulty or doubt that may arise in regard."

Voting details on the above resolution:

Mode of Voting	Particulars of votes cast					
	Votes cast in favour		Votes cast against		Invalid votes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Electronic Voting (A)	11944620	44.56	14863761	55.44	50240885	
Postal Ballot (B)	24254	99.92	20	0.08	NA NA	NA
Poll (C)	47224730	100.00	NA	NA	NA	NA
Voting Result (A+B+C)	59193604	79.93	14863781	20.07	50240885	ы

The above special resolution carried with requisite majority.

CHAIRMAN



#### Chairman's address

At the 29th Annual General Meeting of Amara Raja Batteries Limited - August 6, 2014

Dear Members

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of your Company.

I am sure you must be delighted to note yet another sustained performance of your Company, despite the challenging environment all around. It only proves that your Company's robust and effective business model helped it to continue the march head above shoulders. Let us together congratulate the management team lead by the Vice Chairman and Managing Director Jayadev Galla for this stellar performance.

The global economy continues to reel under the after effects of the financial crisis which had impacted India too. There are traces of slow signs of recovery in the year gone by. However this is an exciting time in the history of the country. A strong and stable Government at the Centre is determined to bring back the economy on the rails through acceleration of reforms leading to national prosperity.

I had in my last year's speech mentioned regarding the need to attain global competitiveness by providing an environment wherein people can acquire the skill sets required for producing quality products. Unless we manufacture quality products we cannot be globally competitive. This issue, if addressed, would position our Country's products in global markets which would in turn increase the exports leading to correcting the current account deficit in a sustained manner. In this direction, I am pleased to inform that your Company through the Mangamma and Gangulu Naidu Memorial Trust (MANGAL Trust) has built a state of the art skill development center in Chittoor District. The Center would provide adequate opportunities to the rural youth, to equip themselves with the required skillsets through a well-designed curriculum and become job ready upon completion of the course. I have no hesitation in saying that going forward the Skill Development Centre would become a center of excellence and create employable rural youth and help uplift the rural economy.

I understand that the new Company Law which has been notified stipulates that Corporates with specified turnover / profits have to mandatorily contribute 2% of the net profits each year towards Corporate Social Responsibility activities which include promotion of education, eradication of hunger and poverty, health care etc., I am proud to state that much before this law came into force, your Company has committed itself through a policy of contributing higher of 0.2% of the net turnover or 2% of the profits before tax to public charitable causes. This nurturing, over the years, has remarkably enriched the rural ecosystem in areas where your Company operates.

It gives me immense satisfaction to state that your company, over the years of its existence, through superior product offering has created a strong brand Amaron which has occupied a niche place in the heart of the customers. This puts the onus on the management team to live up to the expectations and demands of the customers, through

continuous product innovation for providing superior products and uphold the leadership position. I am confident that with the new state of the art facilities in the second location in Chittoor District going full stream in the current financial year and a committed leadership team, your company would strive hard to live up to the expectations of the customers.

I would like to thank our partner Johnson Controls for their continued support and cooperation in all our endeavours.

I would also like to appreciate the employees at all levels for their continued commitment, dedication and hard work, more so in a challenging environment.

I would also like to place on record my sincere thanks to Customers, the Central and State Governments, the suppliers and the Banks, who have contributed to the successful operations of your Company.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the shareholders for their continued and whole-hearted support of our initiatives. Last but not Least I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues on the Board for contributing to the progress of the Company and extending their full co-operation in the discharge of my functions as the Chairman of the Board.

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen.

### Vice Chairman and Managing Director's address

At the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Amara Raja Batteries Limited to be held on August 06, 2014

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen

I take pleasure in extending a warm welcome to all of you to the 29th Annual General Meeting of our Company.

The world economy experienced subdued growth at 3%, for a second year in 2013. The euro area has finally ended a protracted recession. Growth in the United States strengthened somewhat. A few large emerging economies, including China managed to backstop the deceleration they experienced in the past two years and veered upwards moderately. India too experienced its lowest growth in two decades, along with large current account and government budget deficits plus high inflation. The economic survey presented to the Parliament shows an upward trend of growth forecast at 5 per cent in 2014. This is indeed positive news to note. The people of the country have given a decisive mandate for a strong and stable Government at the center. The Budget proposals of the Union Government foster development and growth ushering in an era of good days to come.

It is heartening to report that despite the sluggish economic growth, the year gone by has seen your Company clocking highest ever turnover and profit. The trend has been maintained throughout the year. Your Company's net sales grew 16% while profit after tax recorded an impressive growth of 28%. Your Board of Directors has proposed a dividend of Rs.3.23 per share, which is in line with the dividend policy of distributing up to 15% of the net profits after tax to the shareholders.

This consistent performance showcases the effectiveness of the business strategies and the untiring efforts of the entire team which strongly believes and follows the 'Gotta be a Better Way' fabric of your Company.

Your Company, through superior value-proposition, customer-centric approach and an entrenched pan-India presence continues to enjoy the status of a preferred partner and brand with most discerning corporates and customers.

Your Company continues to focus on expanding its presence abroad through Exports. In automotive batteries, the exports volume grew a healthy 35% over previous year. Our focus has been the Indian Ocean Rim countries especially the developing countries in the African continent. I am glad to inform you that your Company's Automotive Batteries are now available in Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania and Egypt.

I had, in my speech at the last Annual General Meeting made a mention of the historic decision of the Board for investing in green field expansion program. I am glad to inform you today that your Company had in the month of January, 2014 inaugurated **WORLD'S LARGEST INTEGRATED MEDIUM VRLA PLANT** at NUNEGUNDLA PALLE, Chittoor District and the unit is now fully functional. The plant was inaugurated by Mr. Brian James Kesseler, President Power solutions, JCI. I would like to thank Mr. Kesseler for taking time to travel all the way to be with us on this momentous occasion.

The project has state of the art equipment with all modern facilities. The expansion of Medium VRLA product lines will further consolidate our market position. The investment for the expansion will help to create a new infrastructural system which will enable creation of employment opportunities. The benefits accruing out of the enhanced volumes would be fully reflected in the financial year 2015.

Automotive battery plant project in the second location is in progress and is expected to start production by December 2014. This will help in enhancing our market shares in automotive batteries and flat plate inverter batteries which are the growing markets.

I have no hesitation in stating that we are now ready for a giant leap in our aspirational pyramid — to secure leadership in the Indian storage battery sector which would strengthen shareholder value on a sustainable basis and form a strong foundation for continuing the successful journey in a seamless way — taking the Amaron experience global. Your Company's aspiration to position Amaron as a world-class Indian brand is your Company's commitment towards creating enduring value to our nation.

I am confident that the positive sentiments veering around development and growth would create the confidence in Foreign Investors and enhanced Foreign Direct Investment leading to all round acceleration of economic activity. This, coupled with a huge gap between the demand for power and its supply, will significantly spiral the demand for our products.

We have drawn a strategic blue print to enter new verticals and geographies. With the proposed addition in two wheeler battery capacity, we are adequately equipped to address the storage battery needs of two-wheeler OEMs. Our teams are working on the new verticals - Home UPS, Solar and Motive Power sectors as potential new opportunities which will help enable our Company to sustain the growth momentum backed by niche products and innovative solutions.

We will continue to leverage the rich intellectual capital of Johnson Controls Inc. for attaining leadership position in the automotive batteries space. We will also continue to explore the possibilities for forging strategic alliances in the industrial batteries business and cater to dynamic technology changes in the storage power sector globally.

On behalf of the Board, I express my appreciation for your invaluable support and the confidence reposed in us. Your abiding trust and encouragement will go a long way in taking your Company to greater heights.

I also take this opportunity to place on record my sincere appreciation for the tireless effort, spirit of dedication and priceless contribution of the entire Amara Raja team during the year under review. I express my gratitude for the assistance, co-operation and support extended to your Company by our joint-venture partner Johnson Controls Inc., USA, customers, bankers, financial institutions, officials of central and state governments, dealers, retailers and suppliers. Finally, I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Board for providing necessary guidance from time to time in successfully steering your Company.

JAI HIND

JAYADEV GALLA