

Mahesh Poddar (B.E.)

FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
(RAJYA SABHA)

Gandhi Chowk, **Ranchi** - 834001 (Jharkhand)
Mob. : 9334410001, 9570610001

✉ : poddarp@gmail.com 📞 : maheshpoddarjhr

🐦 : @maheshpoddarp 📺 : @MaheshPoddar

MISC/05/24-25

18 June, 2024

To,

Shri Narendra Modi Ji,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
PMO, South Block, Raisina Hill,
New Delhi- 110011

Respected Shri Narendrabhai Modiji,

Sub: Policies of our Union Government on Fly ash Utilisation

Though fly ash is the waste byproduct of thermal power plants (TPPs), its role is significant in Sustainable Development and Climate Change. Hence I earnestly follow the subject have raised in the parliament and and keen to share the subject with you as follows:

1. Fly ash is generated to over 250 million tons annually. 40-50% of the output is put to use dumping balance to the ash ponds. As of now, billions of tons of ash is accumulated occupying several thousands of hectares of land towards ash pond.
2. Getting euphoric to the partial demand, MoP has initiated to monetize fly ash unmindful of counterproductive repercussions in achieving 100% utilization. Just for the benefit of Rs. 100-600 per ton they have ignored thousands worth of societal and environmental benefits. This has lead to unwanted litigations right upto Supreme Court.
3. Fly ash brick segment alone is capable to liquidate total fly ash conserving one and half times of fertile top soil. But not adequate policy support is extended; on the other hand discouraged creating artificial scarcity. In fly ash brick segment the following facts are more striking:
4. While the thermal coal is given to the power plant , through various preferential and concessional route, the Fly Ash is also a valuable bye product , a raw material to provide bricks to the ambitious housing projects .100% utilisation for Bricks should be target .If fly ash was given free, it was not utilised fully , now it has price tag, utilisation has gone down. More fiscal benefit can be considered.

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Joint committee :- Office of Profit, Committee on Public Undertakings

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- Fly ash brick and block activity is the most potential contributor to bring down carbon footprint of the country. The scientists whom I am referring in this letter did business with the World Bank and sold carbon credits worth of USD 6 millions (2004-2014).
- Just 220 fly ash brick plants around a city like Nagpur are already bringing down carbon footprint (158400 tons) as against that of 175 GW solar powerspread over at the PAN India level. Thus, as of now, carbon footprint at 136 times to that of solar power is being reduced by over 30,000 fly ash brick plants with a potential to multiply by at least three times at full potential (100,000).
- This activity has already deployed over 4.50 lakh workforce and the potential is for 15 lakhs.
- This activity is preventing the denudation of 26,250 acres of fertile land every year that has the potential for 87,500 acres of denudation at its full potential.

As brought to my knowledge, there is a reductionist approach rather than the holistic approach in addressing the issues towards framing the policies of fly ash. I observed that the policies of MoEFCC and MoP are not conducive for its utilization; rather contradictory in their nature of notifications. NGT has given a verdict against these policies and now the case is pending at Supreme Court. All these are avoidable if a rational approach is given to the issue.

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In this background I intend to conduct a Scientist-couple to you, who have developed the FaL-G technology for production of fly ash bricks and blocks. Despite having patent, they dedicated their technology to the Nation because of its contribution to Ecology, Environment, Economy, Empowerment(E⁴). Their knowledge for development of self-compacting concrete (SCC), blended with good quantity of fly ash, is availed by DRDO for construction of shatter-proof hangars to dock war planes. They are the winners of 1st Prize at National Grand Challenge on fly ash utilization adjudged by a high level panel headed by Dr V K Saraswat.They have offered to you a National Action Plan on fly ash utilization (27/5/2015) which incidentally missed to catch your kind attention. Hence it is worthy that you hear from them directly to give your judicious policy directions.

Looking forward to your convenient time to call on you,

अभिनन्दनम्

With warm regards
Sincerely yours,



Mahesh Poddar
Former Member of Parliament
Rajya Sabha
Ranchi Jharkhand

Enclosure: Institute for Solid Waste Research &
Ecological Balance (INSWAREB)
Letter Dt. 27/05/2015

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