

24/06/2024

Shri Y V Chandrachud,  
Hon'ble Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of India  
New Delhi

Dear Shri Chandrachudji,

Season's greetings to you.

In the context of your judgment dt. 21/03/2024 (WP No. 839/2019 with CA 3570/2022) to protect 'Great Indian Bustards (GIBs)', I appreciate your observations in upholding solar power as the means of 'sustainable energy' as well as the way you have batted in covering the climate change dimensions. My NGO, INSWAREB, being the observer organisation for COP, Climate Change is very close to my heart and, hence this personal letter. In this context I give some inputs for your kind perusal.

As per 2018 data of a global study, Carbon dioxide emissions are costing the Indian economy up to \$210 billion (Rs. 17.43 trillion) every year. India is likely to suffer the highest economic damage from climate change after the US.

While calculating the 'global social cost' of carbon by taking into account the damages from sea level rise, extreme weather etc., it comes to \$180 to \$800 per tonne. Even at the conservative cost, the national target of 500 GW of solar energy generation by 2030 contributes to the following factors:

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Result at 500 GW solar power generation</b>
Reduction of carbon footprint	@ 0.9 t/MW of power generation	450,000 t
Social Cost of carbon footprint	@ US \$ 180 per ton as conservative cost	US \$ 81 million or Rs. 6.723 billions

My object of citing above data is to highlight that majority of the Ministries, bureaucrats and politicians are missing to look at the long term benefits with reference to Climate Change dimensions in the service of human race and mother earth, but looking at short term and petty gains.

Similar is the approach of government in fly ash utilisation. Fly ash bricks replace burnt clay bricks in construction. Since fly ash bricks gain strength by cement chemistry, no kilns and no burning of fuel. Thus, as per UNFCCC approved methodology, every million fly ash bricks reduce 241 tons of carbon footprint (after leakages).

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Result @ 30,000 fly ash brick plants</b>
Carbon footprint reduction vide UNFCCC approved methodology	Per million standard bricks	380 tons 241 tons after leakage
Operating plants as of now		30,000
Gross production of bricks in 30,000 plants	At an average of 3 million/plant	90,000 million bricks
Reduction of Carbon footprint already achieved/year		90,000*241= 21.69 million tons
Social cost benefit of carbon footprint by fly ash brick plants	@ USD 180/ton	21.69 mn t x USD 180 = USD 3904.2 million or Rs. 324.049 trillion

This means, 30,000 operating fly ash brick plants in India are already contributing to the reduction of 48.2 times of carbon footprint as against to that of 500 GW solar power generation that is yet to be achieved. Conservation of fertile top soil (315 mn. tons) and resultant food security are added bonus out of fly ash brick activity.

Instead of looking at this massive and long term benefit, the power ministry aims to gain at short term benefit on fly ash by auctioning at Rs. 50-100 per ton. Considering 90 million tons of fly ash consumed by these 30,000 units (@ 1 kg per brick), TPPs may earn over Rs. 450-900 million, but who do compensate the irrevocable and irreparable Climate Change (carbon footprint) social cost of Rs. 324 trillion? Government has no answer!

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As technology developers, we are catalysing to take the strength of fly ash brick to 100,000 plants to achieve 100% fly ash utilisation in the direction of enhancing the climate change benefit to Rs. 1,080 trillion.

But, because of silly restrictions on fly ash availability and peevish costs imposed by TPPs at the instance of their administrative ministries, some fly ash brick units are being closed and some other units have put off their expansions. Needless to mention that closure of each fly ash brick unit reflects in 'Climate Change cost' of Rs. 10.8 billion.

Because of the short sighted policies of government on fly ash issues, all judicial bodies such as High Courts, NGTs and also Supreme Court are forced to spend years together of their precious time, listening to the frivolous arguments of the ministries and their Counsels in reductionist approach. I earnestly suggest consolidating all the cases and hearing on technical merits in a holistic manner in order to save everybody's precious time, so much so contributing to the massive benefit of Climate Change.

Vide my official letter Dt. 21/04/2024 to you, I have already offered to assist the Courts on technical merits of fly ash to resolve the issues once for all. Now that you have expressed the concern of Climate Change as a paramount dimension against any other issue, I am encouraged to address this personal letter.

Looking forward to your kind early response,

with warm regards



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