

New Technologies and concern for the environment focus of Ceramic and Glass Industry

The ceramic and glass industry is witnessing a sea change due to advent of new technologies and environment friendly concern. This was the view that emerged from the international conference on “Innovative trends and Application of ceramic tiles, saintaryware, Glass and Allied Industry” held as part of CeraGlass India 2010, India’s first ever comprehensive ceramics, glass and allied products show organized by Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation (RIICO), Government of Rajasthan, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Indian Ceramic Society (ICS) with the support of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Giving an insight on the developments taking place in the Ceramics industry, Mr Shreekant Somany, Chairman, CII CeraGlass India 2010 & Chairman and Managing Director Somany Ceramics Ltd, elaborated that the industry is a part of our civilization and history and ceramic products were used in ancient India. But with the advent of new technology, ceramics and glass were not confined to their traditional meanings. Now we have tiles that are green, hydrophobic, antibacterial., antistatic and glass products that have different attributes relating to energy conservation etc. All these changes are in coherence with environmental concern, he stated

In his keynote address Mr. Anil Kaviraj, Advisor, H&R Johnson explained the various technological innovations that have taken place in the industry. He focused attention on conservation of energy as energy costs constituted about 35 to 50% of the cost of production. There was a need to reduce this cost, he said, and this could be done by using LNG, which was nearly half the cost of LPG. Similarly gasifiers, which consume biomass, and gas turbines were a good way to reduce cost. New deep size kiln were also available now to economize production. He advocated the need of scientific mining and blending. On government’s support to industry he spoke about reduction in VAT, Government incentive in development of new efficient technology and machinery, encouraging the use of tiles and some restriction on the import of tiles.

Mr. Samir K Ghosh ER, CAPEXIL & Chairman–Ceramic & Allied Products including Refractories panel of CAPEXIL dwelled on the global scenario of the ceramic trade which grew from \$19.8 billion to \$ 41.3 billion between 2001 to 2008 with China occupying the first place. Though India occupied the eight place, its share in trade was only 2.5%. The Indian ceramic industry was mostly in the unorganized sector so appropriate government policies were needed to fully harness India’s potential in this trade, he said. Mr. S N Eisenhower, Director Operations, Saint Gobain emphasized the need for sustainable growth. He said though the Indian economy was growing, we needed to utilize our resources judiciously and development should not be at cost of environment. He elaborated about the CII taking steps to rate companies according to green compliance in near future and government measures to be taken in this regard. Mr. Manish Srivastava from Structural Glass Solutions, Saint Gobain Glass India Ltd. informed the

participants about the various factors that go to make glass help conserve energy. Mr. Sajjid Ali Khan and Mr. J P Dave from Progressive Enterprises gave a detailed account of immense reserves of minerals owned by their company and the new technology used there. Mr. Paritosh Modi, Business Manager – Cushioning products ITW India Ltd explained about the air plus and paper plus cushioning and their business and environmental advantages.

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