



Greening the Brick Sector in Bihar through the Promotion of Fly Ash Brick Industry

An event was organised on 'Greening the brick sector of Bihar in a post COVID scenario' by Development Alternatives (DA) in association with Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB), with support from Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF) on 8 September 2020. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, deputy chief minister of Bihar graced the event as the chief guest.

The event was attended by Fly Ash Brick manufacturers from Bihar and neighbouring states like Odisha. Fly Ash Bricks are hi-tech quality bricks used for the construction of brick masonry structures. They are made up of waste materials from the combustion of coal in thermal power plants. These bricks are lighter, and more cost-effective and resource-efficient than traditional clay bricks.

Dr Ashok Kumar Ghosh, chairman, BSPCB gave the opening remarks and informed the participants about an online portal being developed by BSPCB to receive public complaints. He also presented a new Green School Programme aimed at cultivating environmental awareness in schools. Following this, Shubhashis Dey, associate director, SSEF appreciated the Bihar government initiatives for greening the brick sector in Bihar. Furthermore, Alok Kumar, member secretary, BSPCB indicated that an online training programme will be conducted for Fly Ash Brick manufacturers in Bihar and a Fly Ash Resource Centre will be established in the state too.

Dr Soumen Maity, associate vice president, DA discussed the work done by the DA Group in the development of Fly Ash Bricks as a green and clean alternative to the red brick manufacturing. He mentioned how the DA Group is at the forefront of clean technology solutions and is working to promote the Fly Ash Brick industry in Bihar. He further highlighted that this was a unique opportunity for productive utilisation of waste while preventing the emission intensity of the unit.

In this event, “Fly Ash Brick Training Manual” and “Status Report on The Fly Ash Brick Industry in Bihar” were launched by Shri Sushil Kumar Modi. He lauded the efforts of BSPCB, DA, and SSEF in supporting the Fly Ash Brick industry. While releasing the Training Packages for enabling fly ash enterprises, he showed strong support of the government - instructing the building construction department to use these bricks in all their construction activities, for economic, ecological, and social benefits.

Elaborating on the growth of this industry in Bihar, Modi said, “Bihar had only one Fly Ash Brick unit in 2012. However, the number has risen to 210 now. We have also converted 3,500 traditional brick kilns in the state into environment-friendly brick units.” He also mentioned support in terms of initiating dialogue with the central government for augmenting the Fly Ash Brick industry and deriving more fly ash from the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).