

ACC offers to co-process waste in cement plant kiln

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EVEN as waste management - both municipal and industrial - issues have begun to generate a great deal of environmental concerns in the State, cement plants can provide effective solutions for the unfolding problem.

Cement major ACC Ltd has started the initiative to rope in municipalities and industrial units both large and small and facilitate safe disposal of their waste in its cement kilns. It has offered to co-process waste in the kiln of its cement plant at Bargarh and started discussions with the municipal bodies and industries to source their discards. The company is set to conduct a comprehensive mapping of industries in the State for the purpose.

Co-processing has become a standard in cement manufacturing in many countries in the world as it enables plants to use waste as alternative fuel and raw materials. On the other side, it ensures safe destruction of hazardous waste like plastics, polythene, chemical

and industrial with almost zero emission.

The cement kilns operate at temperatures as high as 1800 degrees and have long residence time. These make them ideal for



destruction of waste that are not biodegradable and harmful in nature. The residues also become inherent part of cement making process as raw materials.

More than 37 streams of waste can be used for co-processing in cement kilns. Along with municipal waste, particularly plastic, agricultural waste, drugs and chemicals, and industrial waste like alumina, iron sludge from steel

and spinge iron units, lime sludge from paper industries and chemical discards from fertiliser and other units can be co-processed in Orissa, Director Alternative Fuels and Raw Materials Business Ulhas V Parlikar told this paper today.

The Central Pollution Control Board has recommended for disposal of waste through co-processing route and the State Pollution Control Board has been approached for assistance in carrying it forward, Parlikar said.

The state-of-the-art cement kiln at the Bargarh plant has capacity to utilise 100 to 150 tonne of waste per day. It, in fact, has started co-processing operations by sourcing agricultural waste from rice mills in the region. Nationally, co-processing in nine of its around 14 plants has increased to 3,50,000 tonne in 2009 from about 60,000 tonne, when it was introduced in 2006.

A stake-holders meet comprising SPCB authorities, industrial units and municipal and civic bodies was organised here today for better utilisation of the medium.