

Corporate World and Environmental Ethics: Some Issues

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Abstract

Rapid industrialization, in spite of its positive effects on economic development of the world, has very seriously threatened the world's natural environmental balance. There is a growing pressure from environmentalists, government, society, customers, employees and competitors on business firms to be environment friendly. These days, protection of environment has become a key issue all over the world. Though swift industrialization is an essential pre-requisite for overall economic growth, yet it is damaging the environment drastically, water pollution, air pollution, solid and toxic waste pollution and other environmental contamination are common in many production processes. The inspiration for environmental ethics was the first Earth Day in 1970, when environmentalists started urging philosophers who were involved with environment groups to do something about environmental ethics. Environmental ethics is a subject without definition and without consensus. And yet, every person on this planet makes everyday decisions that relate to environmental ethics. Questions as simple as "what should I eat?" or "How should I move from place to place?" all raise environmental and ethical issues. Environmental ethics is very recent as an academic discipline and there is much to be studied and acted upon. The need for an environmental ethics is, however, critical. Recognizing that environmental ethics alone is not enough; we must all live the environmental ethical way. The present article draws the attention of environmental ethics among the corporate customers.

KEYWORDS; Environment, ethics, corporate, Industrialization, Sustainable, Development

Introduction

These days, protection of environment has become a key issue all over the world. In the last two decades there has been increasing concern about the threat to the environment caused by economic growth and its more undesirable side effects. This concern was expressed much earlier in the developed countries. Rapid industrialization, in spite of its positive effects on economic development of the world, has very seriously threatened the world's natural environmental balance. There is a growing pressure from environmentalists, government, society, customers, employees and competitors on business firms to be environment friendly. These days, protection of environment has become a key issue all over the world. Several factors and forces are responsible for destruction of environment. Of these growing hazardous industrialization is a major culprit. Though swift industrialization is an essential pre-requisite for overall economic growth, yet it is damaging the environment drastically, water pollution, air pollution, solid and toxic waste pollution and other environmental contamination are common in

many production processes. Environmental degradation and development are considered as two sides of the same coin. The environmental degradation, in fact, started with the propagation of human race. This process of environmental degradation was accelerated with the development of socio-economic activities i.e. agriculture, industrialization, drugs and pharmaceuticals, transport, civil construction including roads and buildings etc. with growing population, the requirements of food grains and other consumer items increased greatly, leading to further degradation of environment.

In other words rapid industrialization has created environmental disturbances of three types namely,

1. Depletion of non-renewable natural resources.
2. Deforestation and
3. Degradation and destruction

Thousands of years ago great Indian sages in “Prithvi Sukla” had stated the importance of keeping the earth free from pollution and any disturbance caused to its equilibrium. The message of environment protection is thus not new. Environment as a term is very widely used and means different things to different people. It is used in management literature to refer to the external environment in which the organization functions. Ecologically, environment refers to the sum of all the external conditions and influences affecting the life and development of organism (Webster-1961). Two main aspects of the environment are biotic and abiotic (living and non-living).

Environment refers to all the surrounding things, conditions, and influences affecting the growth or development of living things (World Bank Dictionary-1989). Environment as an area of study is thus a conglomerate of all basic and applied sciences, engineering, socio-economic aspects, management, and Law.

Environment, as the United Nations Committee describes, is the sum total of identified and in identifiable natural resources, existing in finite quantities on earth and, of the quality of the environment of the milieu, which constitutes an important element of the quality of renewable resources.

In the generic sense, it is the aggregate of surrounding things, conditions, or influences. In specific sense, it is a thin layer of life supporting systems called biosphere, divided into physical and biological environment.

Evolution is a concept in which along with the welfare and happiness of the present generation, the rights of the future generation should be secured. Environment is the pivot on which the world’s economic condition stands. It is God-given Home where living creature gets shelter. We all depend on it for our survival. Unfortunately, in spite of this universal truth, man is misguided by thinking that cultural values lie in the artificial shining of the material advancement. In fact, it is a life value which carries its own seeds of destruction.

Environment management is the optimal utilization of the finite resources between different possible uses. Environmental criteria and economic considerations demand that such an allocation be efficient, simultaneously, the available resources should be protected from degradation, and scarce and diminishing resources should be conserved. Environmental degradation refers to increase in the air, water, noise and soil pollution that affects the quality of the environment and threatens the livelihood of many people.

Three decades ago the international community gathered in Stockholm for the United Nations conference on human environment to sound an alarm about the perilous state of Earth and its resources. That landmark event is widely credited with environmental issues being placed on the international agenda, leading, in turn, to the establishment of environment ministries at the national level, and increased awareness of the impact that even local decisions can have, on the global environment. Every activity generates unavoidable environmental impact of some kind or the other, but the ability of people and societies to adopt themselves to and cope with the change is varied. Environment degradation results to poor health and reduced quality of life.

- a) Poor environmental quality is directly responsible for some 25% of preventable diseases.
- b) Air pollution is a major contributor to a number of diseases.
- c) Globally 7% of all deaths and diseases are due to water, and lack of sanitation and hygiene.

There are two basic reasons for our concern with environmental pollution, firstly Home, health and welfare and secondly sustenance and survival of mankind. While addressing the world conservation strategy on March 6, 1980, the Indian Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, spoke that in India the interest in conservation is not a sentimental one, but the rediscovery of the truth well known to our ancient sages.

Environment Management

In the 21st century, organizations are rapidly changing their structures, systems, work processes and activities. This changing environment calls for enterprising managers to manage and respond to the changes in an appropriate manner. It is therefore, necessary for them to develop a clear focus and direction to facilitate proper decision making process. The features of 21st century are:

- 1) An era of information revolution.
- 2) The traditional supply chains are fast disappearing, paving way to new virtual supply chains.
- 3) The relationship among organizations, their customers, suppliers and government is also undergoing a drastic change.
- 4) Organizations are becoming extended enterprises.
- 5) There is an increasing concern about the environmental performance and reporting practices.

It is no longer possible to ignore the needs of the society and quite appropriately, management education must address new areas of interest. In light of this, issues concerning protection, conservation and management of physical environment are to be addressed with a view to imparting knowledge, increasing awareness, and developing the required skills to solve the environmental problems.

Conflict between the enterprise and the community or government may result from incompatible values and goals or scarcity of resources. Successful environment management internalizes environmental concern through measures taken at the decision making stage. Environment management is not "Management of the environment" it is the management of activities within tolerable constraints imposed by the government with full consideration of ecological factors. Environment management also includes the preparation of plans and legal evaluation of administrative and technical solutions to

various environmental problems in terms of both preventive and remedial measures, taking into account the multidisciplinary approaches to development.

Environment management covers functions designed to facilitate comprehensive planning that takes into account the side effects of man's activities and thereby protects and improves the human environment for the present and future generations (United Nations-1972). Thus the study of environment management covers the conscious and planned efforts and activities undertaken by the government departments and agencies to minimize damages to the environment and measures undertaken to regulate the ongoing activities in different areas. The impact of environment management decisions are,

- A. The enterprise and the community are part of one system.
- B. Good environment management decisions reached are balanced solutions for the enterprise as well as the community.
- C. Sound environment management, which is cost effective since it achieves higher productivity that increases work force motivation.
- D. Environment management a series of compromises using limited resources to achieve multiple goals.

Sustainable Development: A Remedy

The issue of environment and sustainable development is certainly on the top of global agenda. While environment and related problems have been discussed by expert over a decade, the concept of sustainable development was popularized by the Brundtland Commission Report in 1987 and later by the Rio declaration in 1992 in the present era of rapid urbanization, over population and unabated industrial growth all around the world, a constant need a shift focus from development to sustainable development has repeatedly been felt.

Sustainable development stands for sustainability and it represents an approach to development which is concerned with such fundamental human concerns like poverty, environment, equality, democracy development and peace. The term sustainable development was coined by Barbara ward, the founder of the international institute for environment and development.

The concept of sustainable development broadly means that the development initiatives be initiated in such a way that the future generation can enjoy the benefits of nature without any comprise.

Sustainable development is also often defined as development that improves health care, education and social well being, which is necessary for economic development. Human resource development report, 1991 of the United Nations Development Programme says "Men, women and children must be the centre of attention with development woven around people not people around development".

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on environment development in Rio-de Janeiro, the earth summit called for sustainable development, "to ensure socially responsible economic development while protecting the resources base and the environment for the benefit of future generation.

In the words of Robber Repetto "Sustainable development is development strategy that managers all natural resources and human resources as well as financial and physical assets for increasing long term wealth and well being.

The important elements in the attempt to achieve sustainability have been on regulation, consumer awareness, company's solution of end of pipe problems, and company's green product development. The government of each country has developed guiding principles of sustainability from the Stockholm conference. The United Nations have given impetus to these Stockholm principles by providing the agenda 21 through the Earth Summit at Rio in 1992.

Implications of Sustainable Development

- ❖ The development work undertaken by a state must be related not only to the present but also to the future. That is, the decision makers should keep it in their view that today's development does not become a disaster for tomorrow.
- ❖ Development work should be total or comprehensive. That is, while undertaking development in one direction; other directions must also to be taken into account.
- ❖ The development work of a state should keep in view its effect on other countries. Thus no state has the right to make its development at the cost of the interest of other countries.

The concept of sustainable development good and sound economic growth, that can be maintained with minimum environmental impact. The factors that can promote sustainable development are the following

- Population stabilization and health care.
- Integrated land use planning and watershed management.
- Re-vegetating marginal land and greening the uncultivated area.
- Air pollution control in industrial pockets.
- Water pollution control in rivers.
- Use of non-polluting renewable energy.
- Waste recycling and reuse.
- Conservation of Biological diversity.
- Human settlement without congestion.
- Environmental education and awareness.
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Environmental Ethics and Corporate world

“A decision is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tend to be otherwise” this is how Aldo Leopold, a naturalist, defined environment ethic. The birth of environmental ethic as a force is partly a result of our concern for our own long term survival as well as our realization that humans are but one form of life and that we should share the earth with our fellow human beings. One of the first to recognize the degradation of the environment and to voice the concern for nature was Henry David Thoreau, the well known American writer and naturalist.

Environmental ethics deals with the following topics genetic engineering, cloning, resource allocation, animals and Vegetarianism, air and water pollution, radiation, ozone crisis and global warming, population and environment, econ-feminism, indigenous peoples, and spiritually and the environment.

Environment ethics is a subject without definition and without consensus. And yet, every person on this planet makes everyday decisions that relate to environmental ethics. Questions as simple as “what should I eat?” or “How should I move from place to

place?” all raise environmental and ethical issues. Environmental ethics is very recent as an academic discipline and there is much to be studied and acted upon. The need for an environmental ethic is however, critical. Classical ethics has always been concerned with relations between humans, and only recently has it been accepted that we have some obligations towards the non-human world. This ethic is very selective and does not extend to such lower animals as bugs or bacteria, not to mention plants. We recognize our duty to preserve wilderness areas for aesthetic enjoyment and scientific study and to conserve resources for future generations, but we do not treat a tree with same respect as we do to a human.

We believe that we should care about non-human life and the natural environment, not for our selfish personal ends but because it seems to be the right thing to do. But there seems to be no ethical theory that explains this attitude. Perhaps the solution to these problems lies in expanding the moral community. If we can include animals and the environment generally in our moral community, perhaps we can learn how to treat them ethically. Environmental ethics that does not bother to find reasons for preserving “non-living” Nature should review its position.

In a reverse way, in the case of problems of pollution, it is not a question of taking something out but putting something in –sewage, chemical, radioactive and heat wastes into water, noxious and dangerous fumes into the air, and distracting and unpleasant advertising signs into the line of sight.

Environmental Law

The Stockholm conference was the beginning of the awakening of national consciousness on environmental issues in India. The Bhopal Gas Tragedy gave the real impetus to this issue. Though Air Act and the Water Act were already in existence, the Environment protection act enacted only in 1986 as a response to the gas tragedy, which created a nation wide uproar.

The relationship between economic development and environmental degradation was first placed on the international agenda in 1972, at the UN conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm. By 1983, when the UN set up the World Commission on Environment and Development, environmental degradation, which had been seen as a side effect of industrial wealth with only a limited impact, was understood to be a matter of survival for developing nations.

The Rio convention Governments -108 represented by heads of state or governments- adopted three major agreements aimed at changing the traditional approach to development. They were:

1. Agenda 21 – a comprehensive programme of action for global action in all areas of sustainable development.
2. The Rio Declaration on environment and development- a series of principles defining the rights and responsibilities of states.
3. The statement of Forest principles- a set of principles to emphasize the sustainable management of forests worldwide.

In addition, two legally binding conventions aimed at preventing global climate change and the eradication of diversity of biological species were opened for signature at the summit, giving high profile to these efforts:

- ✓ The United Nations frame work convention on climate change.

✓ The convention of Biological diversity.

The rise in the awareness of environmental degradation due to the impact of modern industrial development in the 1970s brought a major change in the perceptions at the national and regional levels. The new “environmental establishments” include many significant non-governmental organizations formed to voice public concern. India responded to environmental problems, which dates back to April 1972, when the Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, established a National committee on Environmental planning and Coordination (NCEPC).

Environmental protection and improvement were explicitly incorporated into the constitution by the constitution (42nd Amendment) Act of 1976. Article 51A (g) in a new chapter entitled “Fundamental Duties” imposes a similar responsibility on every citizen “To protect and improve the natural environment”. Article 253 states notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this chapter, parliament has power to make any law.

As environment regulation grew more stringent and its enforcement became more vigorous, industrial challenge to agency action is likely to increase. Although there are over 200 central statutes that have some bearing on environmental protection. In India, the environmental debate was set in motion in the parliament on August 11, 1980 under the title of “Rape of Earth”, led by the Minister of Environment, Shri Dig Vijay Singh. An integrated department called “Department of Environment, forest and Wildlife” in the ministry of environment and forest came into being with effect from September 25, 1985. Minimal National Standards for pollution discharges from specific industries have been formulated and control measures implemented in a phased manner. About % of the large and medium industries in the country have so far installed pollution control devices.

Environment Protection Act, 1986

Under the act, the central government has been vested with powers of entering and inspecting any place through any person or agency authorized by it. After a review of the existing legislation on environment, the environment protection act, 1986 has been legislated to plug the gaps and to provide a single focus for environmental issues. The Central enactments- Water (prevention and control pollution) act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) act, 1981- have been reviewed extensively and suitably amended to make the provisions more effective. The government agencies have generally adopted three major functions. These are;

1. Policy formulation
2. Policy implementation
3. Policy Enforcement

Although it embodies the colonial policies of the pre-independence era, the Forest Act of 1927 remains in force. This act consolidates, with minor changes, the provisions of the Indian Forest Act of 1878 and its amending Acts. The Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972, clearly states that the main objective is to protect the wild animals and birds, particularly rare species.

After the Bhopal gas tragedy and supreme courts’ judgment in the ShriRam Gas leak case, the 1987 amendment to the Factories act introduced special provisions on hazardous industrial activities. The 1987 amendment empowers the states to appoint site

appraisal committees to advice on the initial location of factories using hazardous processes.

The atomic energy act of 1962 and the radiation protection rules of 1971 govern the regulation of nuclear energy and radioactive substances in India. Under the act, the central government is required to prevent radiation hazards, guarantee public safety and the safety of workers handling radioactive substances, and ensure the disposal of radioactive wastes.

The Insecticides act 1968 was designed to implement the recommendations of the Kerala and Madras Food-poisoning cases inquiry commission, which inquired into several deaths from insecticides-contaminated food in April and May 1958. The act established a central insecticides board to advise the centre and the state on technical aspects of the act.

In 1972, parliament enacted the wildlife act pursuant to the enabling resolutions of 11 states under article 252(1) of the constitution. The act provides for state wildlife advisory boards, regulations for hunting wild animals and bird, establishment of sanctuaries and national parks, regulations for trade in animal products and trophies, and judicially imposed penalties for violating the act.

The Water act of 1974 was the culmination of over a decade of discussion and deliberation between the centre and the states. The history and the preamble of the water act suggest that only state governments can enact water pollution legislation.

Alarmed at India's rapid deforestation and the resulting environmental degradation, the central government enacted the forest (conservation) act in 1980. As amended in 1988, the act requires the approval of the central government before a state "deserves" a reserved forest, uses forest land for non-forest purposes.

In the wake of the Bhopal gas tragedy, the government of India enacted the Environment (protection) Act of 1986 under Article 253 of the Constitution. The purpose of the act is to implement the decisions of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment of 1972.

Industrial Response for Environment

Environmental issues and concerns are common to all sectors and all activities. If the deterioration continues, the whole system of life will be thrown out of gear. United Nations Environment (UNECP) program was designed to be "the environmental conscience of the United Nations". The major focus for UNECP has been the study of ways to encourage sustainable development- increasing standards of living without destroying the environment. A growing number of international agreements have been reached in an effort to improve the world's environmental status. Standards are prominent means for direct regulation of environmental quality in most of the developed world. They are;

1. Ambient Environmental quality standard
2. Effluent or emission standard
3. Technology based standard
4. performance standard
5. product standard
6. process standard
7. permits and license

Industrial units are required to obtain from the concerned state pollution control board consent to operate the unit. Such consent is subject to the unit complying with the prescribed standards.

Environment policy in Coca-Cola

The Coca-Cola India is in the business of beverages that refresh people. It will carry out its operations in ways that **Protect, Preserve and Enhance** the Environment. Its activities are guided by **Coca-Cola ecosystem**, which provides a framework to transform this principle in actions. Towards this objective, it shall endeavor to:

- Establish, maintain and operate facilities to comply with all applicable Environmental Safety and Health laws, Statutes and Consents.
- Formulating sound environmental objectives and targets and integrate a continuous process review in all essential elements of corporate management.
- Conservation of natural resources specifically in water, energy and fuel by continually improving its usage and reducing wastage.
- Working as catalyst to enhance collection of post consumer PET bottles through awareness programs and synergizing relevant agencies for getting better pricing to the consumer.
- Seek co-operation with Public, Private and Governmental Organizations in identifying solutions to relevant environmental issues.
- Advertising initiatives are to be critically evaluated while advertising in eco-sensitive areas; not put advertisement on Historical Monuments, Religious, Political Buildings & Structures and other specially protected and sensitive areas.
- Using cooling equipment with environmentally friendly technologies.
- Managing fleet operations in a manner to minimize environmental impacts by ensuring good maintenance, improving & tracking fuel efficiency and effectively managing wastes.
- Ensuring Procurement policies that consider the environmental impact of packaging materials and all direct and indirect process aids used within the operation.
- Ensuring all operations implement eKO Management System and requirements under ISO 14001 before December 2004.

Environment policy in Hero Honda

Hero Honda is committed to demonstrate excellence in its environmental performance on a continual basis, as an intrinsic element of its corporate philosophy. To achieve this it commits itself to:

- Integrate environmental attributes and cleaner production in all our business processes and practices with specific consideration to substitution of hazardous chemicals, where viable and strengthen the greening of supply chain;
- Continue product innovations to improve environmental compatibility;

- Comply with all applicable environmental legislation and also controlling our environmental discharges through the principles of "alara" (as low as reasonably achievable);
- Institutionalize resource conservation, in particular, in the areas of oil, water, electrical energy, paints and chemicals;
- Enhance environmental awareness of our employees and dealers / vendors, while promoting their involvement in ensuring sound environmental management;

It will communicate this policy to all its employees and would make it available to interested parties. In 1989, the Institute of Petroleum Safety, Health and Environment Management (IPSHEM) were established with the objective of promoting standards of safety, health and environment in petroleum sector in India. The Institute is committed to upgrade and develop human resources with a view to minimize the overall risk to human life, damage to property, process and the environment.

1. Environment Monitoring - offshore and onshore.
2. Ambient Air Quality Monitoring
3. Environment Baseline Data Generation
4. Environment Auditing
5. Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)
6. Environment Database
7. Oil Spill Modelling
8. Environment Management Plan (EMP)

Environment Policy in ONGC

The development activities of the ONGC have planned on sound ecological principle and must incorporate appropriate environmental safeguards.

1. Environmental impact assessment, with the details required by the "Department of Environment" has prepared at the earliest stage of project formulation and necessary financial provisions for various environmental program and safeguards are indicated in the project estimates.
2. Environmental norms prescribed by the Central and state government, statutorily empowered to do so, in the matter of air and water quality, noise, land use, afforestation etc. has strictly observed in the design, construction and operation of all facilities of the corporation.
3. The widest possible range of information on practical options available for the design of the project has gathered and analyzed for final decision making technology that ensures energy economy, environmental safeguards, recycling of resources and utilization of wastes should be adopted for all projects.
4. Releases of hydrocarbons, chemicals and other materials would be controlled so that it does not disturb the flora and fauna. Releases containing viruses, pathogenic bacteria and parasites, which survive in marine life, would be completely eliminated and precluded from entering marine waters.
5. Productivity of the environment adjacent to the project areas and resource of the coastal waters should not be adversely affected. No action harmful to the potential for marine resources such as fish, salt, crustacea, etc. should be permitted. Coastal marine

areas should not be subjected to unplanned salutation, erosion, changes in flow pattern and coastal contours.

6. Microbiological activity of significance to marine and estuarine life and people dependent on the coastal waters has fully protected.

7. Aesthetic, cultural and social patterns and historical characteristics of the areas covered by or adjacent to the ONGC's prefects should not be unduly disturbed by the project activities. Scenic landscapes, historical heritage and cultural monuments should be preserved and the environment around them should be kept clean and hygienic.

8. As far as possible, a minimum area of 500 meters from the high tide mark in respect of coastal projects located near river banks should be kept clear of all structures so that beach activities or river front development are not adversely affected.

9. Effective mechanisms for monitoring the environment and for collection of the required data of various parameters of the environment for the purposes of surveillance should be set up within each project.

10. Work environment in the operational areas should be conducive to safe and healthy working conditions. Good housekeeping is an integral part of sound environmental management.

Promoting a healthy, safe, productive, and aesthetically satisfying environment is the responsibility of ONGC.

Environment policy in Tata steel

Tata Steel reaffirms its commitment to provide safe working place and clean environment to its employees and other stakeholders as an integral part of its business philosophy and values. We will continually enhance our Environmental, Occupational Health & Safety (EHS) performance in our activities, products and services through a structured EHS management framework. Towards this commitment, it will;

1. Establish and achieve EHS objectives and targets.
2. Ensure compliance with applicable EHS legislation and other requirement and go beyond.
3. Conserve natural resources and energy by constantly seeking to reduce consumption and promoting waste avoidance and recycling measures.
4. Eliminate, minimize and/or control adverse environmental impacts and occupational health and safety risks by adopting appropriate "state-of-the-art" technology and best EHS management practices at all level sand functions.
5. Enhance awareness, skill and competence of our employees and contractors so as to enable them to demonstrate their involvement, responsibility and accountability for sound EHS performance.

Environment Policy in Ranbaxy

Caring for the Environment is a core corporate value and as a part of this commitment. The Company enunciated its EHS policy in 1993. The Company's EHS policy provides for the creation of a safe and healthy workplace and a clean environment for employees and the community. It aims at higher international standards in plant design, equipment selection, maintenance and operations. The policy seeks to

manufacture products safely and in an environmentally responsible manner. The implementation of the EHS Policy is ensured by institutionalizing a robust EHS Management system, adequately supported by well defined organizational structure.

As a part of EHS processes at the corporate level, besides laying down guidelines on systems, policy and training, the corporate EHS office monitors compliance, maintains and disseminates information on laws and regulations. EHS performance review meetings are held on regular basis to monitor the progress against agreed EHS improvement plans. Close cooperation between all units and individuals is the key to maintaining high standards of environment protection and safety in all the plants.

The key processes at location level comprise of regular safety surveillance, inspections & audits, Permit to work system for operational / maintenance safety, Fire prevention & protection activities, operation of the ETP/Incinerator, disposal activities related to hazardous wastes, regular monitoring of the environment internally and also through approved laboratories. Monthly reports address EHS initiatives, compliance & various records under the statutory requirement, training of employees including contract employees on EHS awareness, interaction with the residential associations/nearby community etc., celebration of National safety day, fire day, and Environment day etc. for EHS awareness among employees.

The manufacturing facilities for bulk drugs and dosage forms comply with the stringent requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) and are approved by International health and regulatory Agencies like FDA - USA, MCA – UK, WHO etc. These practices and approvals ensure that an effective framework is always in place, not only for manufacture of high quality products, but also for effective use of resources and reduction of wastes as well as high safety & hygiene standards.

Ranbaxy has made significant improvements in process safety of the existing manufacturing facilities by providing extensive instrumented safety protection systems. The intended safety features are incorporated in the basic design of the new projects.

Investments have been made on process improvements as well as effluent treatment plant up-gradation using the latest membrane based technology, multi-effect thermal evaporation system and state-of-the-art Incinerator. These investments have helped to reduce discharges of contaminants into the environment. With the facilities installed at Toansa for recycling of the treated effluent, the site has achieved the status of “zero discharge site”.

The Company also engages with the concerned authorities and industry in devising responsible laws, regulations and standards and thus making safety, occupational health & environmental information and expertise available to its employees and the community at large. Ranbaxy has made EHS concerns and practices a necessary factor in appraising its employee performance.

Recognition of the safety and environmental performance came through a number of prestigious awards during the last year. National Safety Award by Ministry of Labour & Employment for “Lowest Average Weighted Frequency Rate”, Greentech Environment Excellence – Silver Award in Pharmaceutical sector and National Award for “Excellence in Energy Management” as an “Excellent Energy Efficient Unit” for the Toansa Plant, were amongst them.

Conclusion

Finding for environmental protection is the best way for a nation to avoid the need for costly environmental regulations. The Environmental ethics is new and, like the vital issues, it will undergo transformation as new data are made available and we are able to interpret rationally and live with nature. Education of the public to environmental problems and solutions is of prime importance. Recognizing that environmental ethic alone is not enough, we must all live the environmental ethical way. We must also recognize the power of nature and feel humble in the realization that we are just a very small part in a wonderful and still mysterious system.

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