4.0
PROMOTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON ASH UTILIZATION
4.0 PROMOTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

4.1 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

(a) Exemption of excise duty on the production of building materials using fly ash in 25 percent or more quantities as raw material.

(b) Concessional custom duty on the import of certain equipment, machinery and capital goods required for the production of ash based building products such as bricks, light weight aggregates, light weight concrete, etc.

(c) Exemption of excise duty on the production of goods (intended for construction of low cost houses) being manufactured by Nirman Kendras and Nirmithi Kendras.

(d) Exemption of excise duty on Ready Mix Concrete.

(e) Exemption of excise duty on goods manufactured at the site of construction for use at such site.

(f) Exemption of excise duty on the production of light weight (solid or hollow) concrete building blocks.

(g) MoEF has brought out a Gazette Notification dated 14 Sept., 1999 stipulating that no person shall within a radius of fifty kilometers from coal or lignite based thermal power plants, manufacture clay bricks or tiles or blocks for use in construction activity without mixing atleast 25 percent of ash (fly ash, bottom ash, or pond ash) with soil on weight to weight basis.

(h) This gazette notification also stipulates that CPWD, PWD in the State/Union Territory Government, Development Authorities, Housing Boards, National Highway Authority of India and other construction agencies including those in the private sector shall also prescribe the use of ash and ash based products in their respective schedules of specifications and constructions applications, including appropriate standards and code of practice.

(i) In order to increase Ash Utilization level further, MoEF has issued amendment in the above Gazette Notification through another Gazette Notification dated
August 27, 2003. Salient features of the changes in the notification are given below:

(I) For compulsory use of 25% ash in manufacture of clay bricks or tiles or blocks—the distance has been increased from **fifty kilometers to one hundred kilometers**.

(II) Every construction agency engaged in the construction of buildings within a radius of fifty to one hundred kilometers from a coal or lignite based thermal power plant shall use fly ash bricks or blocks or tiles or clay fly ash bricks or cement fly ash bricks or blocks or similar products or a combination or aggregate of them in such construction as per the following minimum percentage (by volume) of the total bricks, blocks and tiles, as the case may be, used in each construction project, namely:-

(i) 25 percent by 31st August, 2004;
(ii) 50 percent by 31st August 2005;
(iii) 75 percent by 31st August, 2006; and
(iv) 100 percent by 31st August, 2007.

In respect of construction of buildings within a radius of 50 kilometers from a coal or lignite based thermal plant the following minimum percentage (by volume) of use of bricks, blocks and tiles shall apply:-

(i) 50 percent by 31st August 2004;
(ii) 100 percent by 31st August 2005.

(III) The above provisions shall be applicable to all construction agencies such as Housing Boards and those in the private sector builders of apartments, hotels, resorts and cottages and the like. It shall be the responsibility of the construction agencies either undertaking the construction or approving the design or both to ensure compliance of the above provisions and to submit such returns as may be called for and compliance reports to the State Government or Union territory Administration.

(IV) In case of non-compliance of provisions of paragraph I above, the competent authority, in addition to cancellation of consent order issued to establish the brick kiln, shall move the district administration for cancellation of the mining lease.
(V) No agency, person or organization shall, within a radius of 100 kilometres of a thermal power plant undertake construction or approve design for construction of roads or flyover embankments in contravention of the guidelines / specifications issued by the Indian Road Congress (IRC) as contained in IRC specification No. SP : 58 of 2001. Any deviation from this direction can only be agreed to on technical reasons if the same is approved by Chief Engineer (Design) or Engineer-in-Chief of the concerned agency or organization or on production of a certificate of “Pond ash not available” from the thermal power plant (s) (TPPs) located within 100 kilometres of the site of construction. This certificate shall be provided by the TPP within two working days from the date of making a request for ash.

(VI) Soil required for top or side covers of embankment of roads or flyovers shall be excavated from the embankment site and if it is not possible to do so, only the minimum quantity of soil required for the purpose shall be excavated from soil borrow area. In either case, the top soil should be kept or stored separately. Voids created due to soil borrow area shall be filled up with ash with proper compaction and covered with top soil kept separately as above. This would be done as an integral part of embankment project within the time schedule of the project.

(VII) No agency, person or organization shall within a radius of 100 kilometres of a coal or lignite based thermal power plant allow reclamation & compaction of low-lying areas with soil. Only pond ash shall be used for compaction. They shall also ensure that such reclamation & compaction is done in accordance with the bye-laws, regulations and specifications laid down by the authorities.


(IX) All agencies including the Central Public Works Department and State Government agencies concerned with utilization of fly ash for construction purposes shall, within three months from the 1st day of September, 2003 make provisions for the use of fly ash and fly ash based bricks, blocks or tiles or aggregates of them in the schedule of approved materials and rates.

(X) All agencies undertaking construction of roads or fly over bridges including Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH),
National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Central Public Works Department (CPWD), State Public Works Departments and other State Government Agencies, shall, within three months from the 1st day of September, 2003-

- make provisions in their tender documents, schedules of approved materials and rates as well as technical documents, including those relating to soil borrow area or pit.

- make necessary specifications/guidelines for road or fly over embankments that are not covered by the specifications laid down by the Indian Road Congress (IRC).

(j) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) has issued directives through their letter no. RW/NH-33044/30/2001-S&R (R) dated 30th July, 2003 for mandatory use of fly/pond ash as fill material in road/flyover embankment construction in the areas where fly/pond ash is available in adequate quantities.

(k) Government of India commissioned Fly Ash Mission during 1994 with Department of Science & Technology (DST) as the Nodal Agency and Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) as the Implementing Agency for developing confidence in fly ash technologies towards large scale adaptation through Technology Demonstration Projects. For further details logon to www.tifac.org.in

4.2 STATE GOVERNMENT

(a) Certain State Governments offer Sales Tax benefits for ash based products.

(b) Orissa Government has banned use of top soil for manufature of clay bricks within a radius of 70 kms. of fly ash based brick manufacturing unit. The notification issued by Orissa Government also calls for:

(i) All Govt. Deptts/agencies to utilize fly ash bricks within a radius of 70 kms. from location of fly ash brick plant.

(ii) All Govt. Deptts./ agencies have been asked to utilize fly ash based cement where available.

(c) Andhra Pradesh Government has issued directives that all Govt. Deptts. should switch over to pozzolana/slag cement in next five years period in a phased manner. Similarly, for Fly ash bricks, subject to availability, all Govt. Deptts. should switch over to fly ash bricks in phased manner in 5 years period.