

Advertisement encouraging plastic use invites criticism

seals a year resulting to a four to six per cent drop in seal population. Animals like sea turtles and sea birds drown or strangle from getting tangled and even die from eating discarded plastics and other garbage. Balloons have been the cause of death of animals like sperm whales.

Dr. Asad Rahmani, Director Bombay Natural History Society questions GAIL asks how does GAIL intend to dispose off plastics without letting out poisonous, dioxin. "It is well known" says Dr Rahamani, "that trees are specially being farmed to feed the paper mills, plus bamboo too is a renewable source for paper production. While deforestation is reversible, the damage caused by plastic is permanent. It takes thousands of years for plastic to degrade, till then the damage continues."

Rodriguez explains that worldwide disposal of plastics is problem. There is no safe method to destroy the material. Incineration or burning, propagated by the plastic industry produces dioxins. Dioxins are one of the most lethal synthetic chemicals known today. They are carcinogenic. Dioxins dissolve easily in fats and as a result can build up in the



The ad in question. Missing the wood for the trees?

fatty tissues of animals or humans. Globally more than 650,000 plastic bottles are dumped into the oceans each day. It is estimated that the total input of marine litter (mostly plastics) into the oceans, worldwide, is approximately 6.4 million tonnes a year.

On the contrary, Sandeep Gupta a chemical engineering from IIT-Kharagpur working at present in a MNC says "Use of plastic or polymers in daily life like fittings, furniture and containers, directly influences consumption of tree based products like pulp/paper". He

asserts,"The main culprit is the plastic bag and governments should ban it. America today is greener than before, although its per capita plastic usage is fifteen times more than ours! The reason is that it has made use of polymers responsibly."

What GAIL and others propogating use of plastics forget, counters Chaturvedi that the plastic bag and restricting the protests to anit-polybag campaigns are basically an eyewash. Plastic waste disposal is a problem with no solutions.

know much about it, so I thought I'd ask you your opinion. So, did you read the paper on that day?

Shruti Sareen
Varanasi

(Ed: Please refer to news item above)

I have recently learned that the Timarpur incienrator in Delhi, which did not work even a day, is being sold as depreciated machinery and as scrap. The tender is out as well. This is a celebration and a warning. Celebration because hadit ever worked, or attempts to revive it happened,it would have been highly toxic for us, our wildlife and birds, our bodies and everything else.

Warning: because now the highly embarrassing symbol of the failure of burn technologies will be removed. and we need to not let anyone forget this disaster. Also a moment of reflection how can

citizens resist such devises thrust upon them by a stone-deaf decision making apparatus? Whatever, it is a good example of crap to scrap. We should celebrate at the venue when it is dismantled and hold some kind of an event. at least toast to the dismembering of a toxic dragon.

Bharati Chaturvedi
Chintan, New Delhi

We have formed a group in our local area and want to promote certain issues like Recycle waste, eliminate polybags and plant trees. We would need tons of help and support of your team.

Monica Bajaj
New Delhi

We are working with some Tibetan communities in HP, and partnering lwith NGOs in Delhi. We are funding Non formal

education centres in Yamuna Pushta, Raj Ghat and Mall Road bastis, in Delhi. Each class has about 50 children. We also run a computer centre in the Yamuna Pushta centre which has online facilities. EE is taught in these classes. I believe the approach you have developed would be not only interesting for the kids, it would also give teachers better tools.

Glenn Fawcett
White Lotus Project, New Delhi

Rejoinder:

Last GNET (No.4 Conservation) carried a letter to the P.M. in EE Watch.Please do not forward the letter to Kalpvriksh as requested. Instead send your letters to: EEU, CSE, 41 Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi-110062 .E mail: gnet@cseindia.org

Editor's Note: Please treat this as an interactive forum. You are encouraged to send responses to the letters carried here.