

CCPS Organised visit of Governing Council Members of IBC to the plant of Asahi India Glass Ltd.



There was a time when use of glass in construction had very limited applications, mostly in window and ventilator panels. During last few years, glass become a favored feature in buildings and is used extensively in both exterior and interior applications. The skylines of Metros are dotted with high-rise buildings clad in glimmering glass, spelling out affluence & style. It is transparent to visible light, allows optimal use of day light, and satisfies sense of openness and harmony. Glass has also several advantages apart from adding beauty to the building and aesthetics. It can be recycled indefinitely, helps to maintain hygienic environment with easy maintenance.

Engineers, architects, designers, specifiers and consultants support glass use, not because of fashion, competition or fascination but due to its inherited properties, unmatched qualities & advantages, structural capabilities and meeting the modern demand of comfort as well as safety and security. A professional associated with such a wonderful material, will

always have a desire to see, experience and witness the manufacturing, processing and handling activities of glass. This opportunity became possible for Governing Council Members of Indian Building Congress (IBC) majority of them happened to be technocrats, when they visited Manufacturing and Processing Plant of Asahi India Glass Ltd at Roorkee on 8th June 2014.

Indian Building Congress (IBC) is a professional body comprising of architects, structural engineers, civil engineers, public health engineers, electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, horticulturist, administrators, financiers, planners, developers, builders, professionals connected with built environment, manufactures of building materials, researchers, teachers, students etc. and focusing to build an environment which is conducive to healthy living, affordable aesthetic, cost competitive, technology driven and capable of meeting needs of Indian Population.

The 75th Meeting of Governing Council Members of Indian

Building Congress and Seminar on 'Devastation due to Uttarakhand Flood and Rehabilitation Measures' was organized at Dehradun on 7th June 2014. Confederation of Construction Products and Services (CCPS) being the Institutional Governing Council Member of IBC, is represented by Mr. Shashi Kant, Adviser, CCPS, who invited all the GC Members of IBC to visit the Glass Plant of Asahi India Glass Ltd. at Roorkee while returning back from Dehradun to Delhi on 8th June, 2014. Asahi India Glass Ltd. being one of the founder members of CCPS, happily accepted to arrange plant visit followed by lunch.

The plant was visited by more than 50 G C Members and invitees of IBC which included Mr. S.P.S. Bakshi, (President IBC) CMD Engineering Projects (I) Ltd.; Mr. C.S. Prasad, Advisor, EPIL, former DG, CPWD; Mr. B.K. Chugh, Advisor Delhi Govt., former DG, CPWD; Mr. D.S. Sachdev former DG, CPWD; Mr. B. Majumdar former DG, CPWD; Mr. P.S. Chadha, former ADG, CPWD; Mr. J.J. Lal former Chief Engineer,



on both sides of even thickness and subsequently temperature was gradually reduced from 1100°C to 680 °C so that glass sheet can be lifted from the tin on to rollers. The glass sheet was shown passing through alehr kiln for approximately 150 m long, where it was being cooled gradually. Further process of inspecting, cutting, stacking was all automatic, followed by packing, ware housing, loading and dispatching.

In the processing plant, G C members were informed about

CPWD; Mr. B.K. Dham former Chief Engineer, PWD, West Bengal; Mr. G.P. Sharma, former Chief Engineer, PWD, Rajasthan; Mr. O.P. Gupta, former Chief Engineer, MCD, Mr. V.K. Bansal, SE, NMCD; Mr. B.C. Datta, former Secretary General ITPI, Mr. K.T. Gurmukhi, former Chief Planner, M/o UD; Mr. Kuldeep Raj, Director Planning, DDA; and many senior officials in position or retired from Govt./ Pvt. Construction Sector from across the country.

A brief presentation was given by Mr. Navin Rai, Plant Head, Mr. Nirdosh Kaushik and Mr. Praveen Saini. They informed about the Roorkee plant which was under operation since 1st January 2007 having capacity of 700 M.T. per day and is practicing Total Quality Management System (T.Q.M.). It was also informed that Asahi India Glass Ltd. have been certified according to ISO 9001:2008, EMS 14001:2004 & OHSAS 18001:2008 and aimed to get the EnMS 50001 certificate this year. A talk was also given by Mr. Shashi Kant highlighting the salient features of the 'Guidelines' on Use of Glass in Buildings-Human Safety' developed by CCPS. Mr. D. S. Sachdev informed august gathering about its implementation by 15 States and Central & State Govt. Departments and PSUs like CPWD, NBCC, Airport Authority of India, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Govt. of Rajasthan, Haryana PWD, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Jaipur Development Authority, Rajasthan Housing Board, India Trade Promotion Organization etc.



While taking round to float glass manufacturing plant, the visitors were explained that Batch processing is one of the initial steps of the glass-making process where screening, testing, uploading and mixing of raw material is done. Common glass-making raw materials consist of sand, soda ash (sodium carbonate), dolomite, limestone, and salt cake (sodium sulphate) and other materials may be added as colourants, refining agents or to adjust the physical and chemical properties of the glass. Batch enters the furnace at the 'dog house' or 'batch charger' where it is heated to a temperature of 1450°C to 1650°C. The temperature of the molten glass is stabilized to approximately 1100°C to ensure a homogeneous specific gravity.

Next step is to feed molten glass into 3-4 m wide, 50 m long, 6 cm deep molted tin bath and molten glass flows onto the tin surface forming a floating ribbon with perfectly smooth surfaces

the Architectural and Automotive Glass Solution Value Chain. Visiting dignitaries took keen interest in processing operation of laminated, tempered and other value added glass products.

President, Governing Council Members of IBC and dignitaries appreciated the visit to the plant and termed it as very educative and one of the life time memorable trips especially the courtesy and hospitality extended by the management of Asahi India Glass Ltd. They opined that the glass industry in India has kept pace with the emerging requirements of Glass and is capable of producing world-class glass in the country. IBC also thanked CCPS for associating in the the various activities of IBC and making this visit possible.

Reported by Mr. Shashi Kant, Adviser, CCPS & former Dy. Adviser, Planning Commission