

Challenges and opportunities in solid waste management

By Vishnudas Sheshrao

Researchers and experts in the field of solid waste management (SWM) called for amendment in the rules to encourage producers who use eco-friendly packing material for their products and levy tax on producers who use plastic material for packing, as a measure to curb the excessive use of plastic in metropolitan cities.

All researchers came on a common platform to discuss the challenges in the field of solid waste management at the 15th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organised at World Trade Center Mumbai on Thursday. Experts think that SWM in the Mumbai is going from bad to worse as dumping yards are coming to an end and on the other hand waste is drastically increasing.

Metropolitan Commission UPS Madan expressed dissatisfaction over the present solid waste management practice by local corporations in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. He suggested involvement of formal sections and private players in SWM.

While talking about Mumbai, Madan said, "Mumbai's population of two crore produces 500 gm of waste per capita, with such volumes of waste to be managed, catering to its management has proved to be a failure posing both challenges and opportunities. Waste management is being mismanaged by the informal sector and to put it in order requires the involvement of the formal sector. It is a thriving opportunity for the MSME sector to explore waste management"

Dr Amiya Sahu who has a doctorate in Environment Science from US and is the

founder of National Solid Waste Association of India (NSWAI) said, "Mumbai is far behind in the solid waste management as compare to the national capital Delhi."

He added, "Mumbai has its own problem of land crunch for dumping yards as the city is surrounded by the sea and price of per sq feet land is highest in Asia. The best solution is carry out a process on the garbage and harvest gas, organic fertilizer and recycled material."

Processing of dumping yard in city could not start as

as a challenge, we see it as opportunity. We are planning to make some training module on SWD, introduce new technology and encourage the youth for entrepreneurship in the field of solid waste management.

He added, "Every family has at least three old mobiles, a TV set, cassettes, old computers which is normally being dumped at dumping yard. Recycling of these units can be a lucrative industry.

Environment Management Center Vice President Shantanu Roy noted, "Those pro-



(LtoR): Associate Director TERI Dr Suneel Pandey, Director MSME RB Gupte, Advisor TERI GS Gill, President National Solid Waste Management Association of India Dr Amiya Sahu, Vice President Environment Management Center Shantanu Roy.

the civic body and the private parties could not come to a consensus on the rate of tiffin fee. Sahu said, "There is nothing called 'free lunch'. Private parties need monetary motivation and high tiffin fee."

Mr. Vijay Kalantri, president, All India Association of Industries said, "It is high time we should start processing garbage waste and harvest gases from it. Thus, we should look to tap renewable energy."

Director of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Director RB Gute said, "Every one looks towards solid waste

producers who use organic packing material should be rewarded and those who use plastic coating material should be levied tax of the same amount to recycle that plastic."

All the panelist appreciated the natural justice in the field of SWD.

The Dialogue was jointly organized by MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai, All India Association of Industries, World Sustainable Development Forum, TERI, Agence Francaise of Development and United Nations Development Programme.