

***INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT FROM
PETROCHEMICAL DOWNSTREAM PROJECTS:***

BRAHMAPUTRA CRACKER AND POLYMER LTD.

Assam Gas Cracker Project (AGCP) was conceived to be a catalyst to usher in an industrial revolution in the state through plastic product industries (PPI) and create job and entrepreneurial opportunities for the youth of the state. The IPCI in Gujrat has created thousands of small and medium industries, ancillary industries ushering in an Industrial revolution in Gujrat and neighbouring areas from which the state has never looked back. While conceiving AGCP this success story was certainly in mind of the planners.

Assam Gas Cracker Project (AGCP) now christened as Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Ltd. is being set up by GAIL (70% share holder) Numaligarh Refinery, Oil and Govt. of Assam holding 10% shares each. It is an integrated petrochemical Complex at Dibrugarh, Assam comprising of TPA Cracker unit which will produce from natural gas and naphtha from Numaligarh Refinery, the following plastic industry raw material :

LLDPE / HDPE	2,20,000	Tons per annum
POLLPROPYLENE	<u>60,000</u>	Tons per annum
	2,80,000	Tons per annum
Also, PYROGASOLINE	55,750	Tons per annum

From this 2,80,000 MT of plastic raw material, wide range of all kind, of plastic items can be made –

- Daily use items of use
- Moulded furniture

- Pipes
- Bags (raffia bags) woven sacks of fertilizer, from grain
- Water tanks, waste bins
- Crates
- Oil container
- Road dividers
- Heavy duty sacks, agriculture films
- Tarpaulins

The list is endless.

The BCPL will go in for production by end of 2014 or early 2015. The Project has been under gestation and implementation for over a decade now. **But BCPL as well as the Govt. of Assam has done practically nothing for utilization of the raw material of 2,80,000 MT through small, medium and ancillary industries. They have done nothing for entrepreneurial development, strategic advice / guidance to establish small units, assistance in preparation of project report, technology solution etc., – an effective one window help especially for plastic industry.** Whatever they is doing is not visible, may be they are in files only – there is no awareness amongst the unemployed and other about the possibilities of setting up plastic industries from the plastic raw material of BCPL.

The project will utilize over 10 MMSCMD of the state's natural gas which is a non-renewable raw material of the state and which is likely to be completely depleted in 15 – 20 years.

- The Central Govt. has subsidized this gas at low price for 15 years by giving feed stock subsidy.
- Also capital subsidy of thousands of crores
- And other powerful package of exemptions

A SAD STORY

Now the story of the people of Assam and this region is the same sad one, - natural resources flowing out and in this particular case, in the form of value added raw material with thousands of crores of subsidy and other exemptions, and coming back as finished product, a cruel joke on the people of the N.E. region as the project was conceived to give a kick start towards industrial development of the entire N.E. region. Question also arises as to whether the company should be eligible for the huge concessions towards gas supply for 15 years, capital subsidy and other exemptions when the basic aim of concessions of giving an industrial thrust towards rapid industrial developments of the region, languishes with all the value added raw material poised to go out of the region. It is pertinent to point out that the natural gas reserve of the state is depleting fast.

A BELATED HOPE

Though belated, a crash programme under the stewardship of the Central Govt. for creation of plastic parks in each district of Assam and the other N.E. states, entrepreneurial development programmes and other pragmatic steps can be taken up now **most urgently** under the dynamic leadership of Narendra Modi, our Prime Minister.

P.K. Bhuyan

pkbhuyan2014@gmail.com