

An Assessment of Mercury Pollution Problem at Kothari Industries Limited, Madras

Foreword

The protection of environment against mercury pollution is a very typical problem in view of its potential hazards to human beings. The major consumer of mercury is the Chlor-alkali Industry and maximum proportion of mercury consumed, apart from carryover with products, is released into the environment through cell room ventilation, brine sludge and waste streams. .

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 provides for a consent system by which control of pollution at the sources of emanation prior to discharge into the environment can be effected administratively. The Central Pollution Control Board under this Act, in collaboration with the State Pollution Control Boards, initiated a nationwide programme of mercury pollution control in the caustic soda industry in the year 1982. Prior to this programme, the Minimal National Standards (MINAS) were developed for the industry after considerable interaction with the Alkali Manufacturer

Association of India. The target date for achieving the MINAS was fixed as January 31, 1984. The present report is a case study which brings out an assessment of mercury pollution problem and its control at M/s Kothari Industries (Madras) Limited. The study was conducted and the report prepared by Dr. Inamul Haq, Scientist, Central Board. Dr. K.R. Ranganathan, Member Secretary, supervised the work.

Help rendered by Shri Vijay Augustus, Assistant Environmental Engineer of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Shri B. Prakash, Apprentice Scientist Central Pollution Control Board, Sectional Office, Pondicherry during field investigation is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are due to Dr. S. Chatterjee, Consultant who read the report and provided his comments. Thanks are also due to Shri A.K. Muradha, Mrs. S. Menon and Shri Premankur Barua for typing the report neatly and to Shri Ramesh Singh Shahi for tracing the drawings.

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