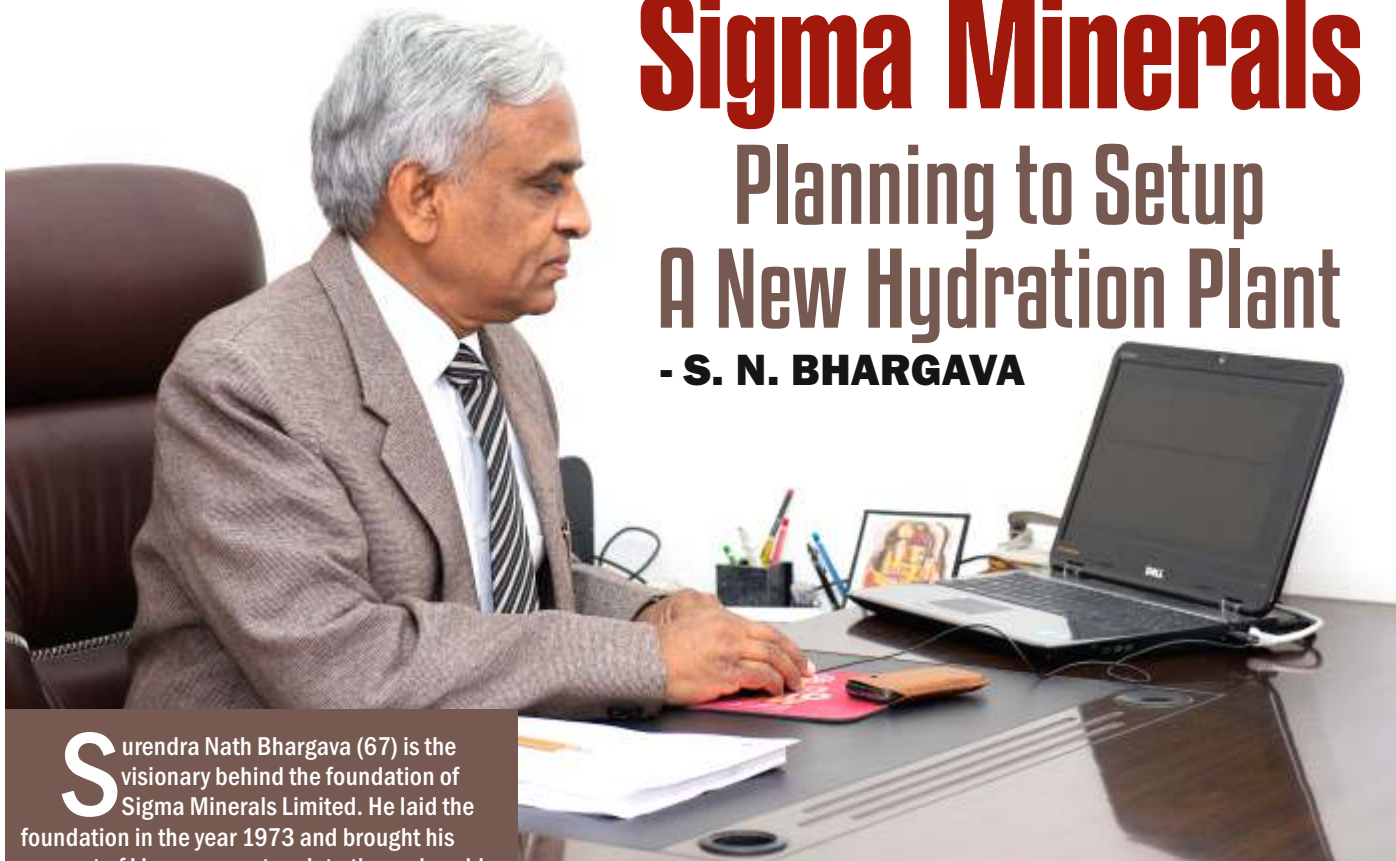


Sigma Minerals

Planning to Setup A New Hydration Plant

- S. N. BHARGAVA



Surendra Nath Bhargava (67) is the visionary behind the foundation of Sigma Minerals Limited. He laid the foundation in the year 1973 and brought his concept of Lime as a venture into the real world.

Graduated in the year 1968, Mr. Bhargava holds the degree of B.E in Mechanical Engineering from BITS, Pilani with a cutting-edge experience of 7 years in the paper industry.

In the initial days of Sigma Minerals, he top spot the marketing and production part and nurtured his venture to business in the past four decades. Today Sigma Minerals caters to the entire major industries like Chemicals & Fertilizers, Sugar Mills, Steel Plant, Paper Mills, Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industries, Refractories, Food Chemicals Construction Industry etc.

Bhargava has been in this business of Mining & Mineral based industry since 34 years. He laid the groundwork of Sigma Minerals Limited and channeled the development and evolution of his dream project.

Speaking to **Sanjay Singh, Associate Editor of Steelworld**, S. N. Bhargava said that with the new mineral policy of the central as well as state, the future of lime manufacturing is very dark. In very near future, limestone for lime manufacturing will be out of reach of Lime manufacturing. Excerpts

Can you briefly describe the activities of your company ?

- Sigma Minerals Limited is a Public Limited Company. We are the leading manufacturers of Hydrated Lime and Quick Lime Powder since 40 years. We feel obliged to serve our product lines to various industries like Steel Industry, Paper Industry, Paints and Pigments, Chemical Industry, Flue gas Treatment, Water Treatment, Dairy Products etc. The balance of customized products and the quality has set exemplary standards in Lime industry in the country.

The company has been a pioneer in setting up modern kiln shifting from conventional to twin shaft technology. Can you give more details about this innovative technology ?

- We have established a TD-5 Twin Shaft Regenerative Cimprogetti Lime Kiln of Italian Technology. The company is fortunate enough to get an optimum productivity of Highly Reactive High

Purity Lime from this Kiln. It runs on a capacity of 300 Tons Per Day (TPD). It is fully computerized fuel efficient and eco-friendly with minimum pollution in the atmosphere.

Since quality lime stone is available in Rajasthan, how do you see the lime industry growing in the coming years ?

- It is true that quality lime stone for manufacturing of lime is available in Rajasthan only, more specific in the western part of the state. However, with the new mineral policy of the central as well as state the future of lime manufacturing is very dark. In very near future, limestone for lime manufacturing will be out of reach of Lime manufacturing.

It is generally discussed that in the next three to five years, lime industry status as a SME will be replaced by larger units to combat pollution. What is your opinion in this matter ?



“ We have established a TD-5 Twin Shaft Regenerative Cimprogetti Lime Kiln of Italian Technology. The company is fortunate enough to get an optimum productivity of Highly Reactive High Purity Lime from this Kiln ”



It has always been a necessity for lime industry to put a control on pollution. The Cimprogetti Italian Technology Kiln is an Eco-Friendly Kiln which can easily put control on pollution. It is our small contribution towards environment protection.

Lime industry is also facing dumping issues from countries like Vietnam and UAE. What protection do you expect from the Govt. ?

- So as to avoid the phase of dumping of the product, Lime Industry can be secured by the aid of government policies. We

strongly believe that government should strictly regulate imports so as to avoid the dumping of material in the domestic market.

What are the expansion plans lined up by the company in the next five years ?

- We are positively planning to set up a Hydration Plant in upcoming few years. We are also looking forward to set up one more Kiln at our plant. However, the same will depend solely on the availability of limestone in adequate quantity.



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