



Deepak Gahlwot

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Mr. Deepak Gahlwot, a noted architect is one such professional who is also serving Building Industry in various aspects through CCPS, a non – profit organisation which itself is the output of his commitment and efforts. Bringing the governmental components and the industrialists on one stage, he has succeeded in forming human safety code for glass, used in buildings. Following is the text of his conversation with Glass Bulletin.

How do you assess glass in the form of a construction material?

Glass is today, a basic building material; Undoubtedly, it is an essential part of a building. Only we need to understand its benefits and limitations better and use it appropriately.

What inspired you to join CCPS? How did you join it?

In fact, CCPS is the output of relentless efforts of many likeminded people. CCPS was formed more than eight years ago. I am an architect. My experience and interest in the construction process and the interest from the building industry combined to ensure setting up of CCPS. A set of people, Mr. Shreekant Somany, Mr. Alok Modi, Mr. K. K. Malik, Mr. K. Ravi, Mr. I. S. Narula and of course Mr. P. R. Swarup with others led this initiative. It was also felt that if we worked together, we could turn Indian building industry into a matured sector.

What is the structure of CCPS and your first step to start with?

First of all, discussion was started with Training for workers. Good material is available in India but, it lacks proper training to workers. It was also thought that there should be standards for the products. Standards for ready-made building material were also in focus. For this purpose, Confederation of Construction Products & Services (CCPS) was set up. Mico Bosch, Somany Ceramics Ltd., Gujarat Guardian Ltd., Tata Steel and Arcus Ltd. were the founder members.

In the beginning, the first project relating to training, was proposed to initiate with Ministry of Human Resources. Sadly, after almost 2 years of hard work, the ministry decided to drop it. Since then, we have made a name for ourselves in voluntary standards and have demonstrated that standards produced by a Non-Govt organization, can serve as national standards.

What are the main objectives of CCPS?

CCPS is working mainly on efficiency and quality of building materials. By *Efficiency*, we mean, work should be done with speed, at low cost, with good quality material. Besides this, there should be low rate of wastage. We have four core area of work – Standards and Codes of Practice, Training, Standardisation / Off site Assembly and Market Data.

What are the overall achievements of CCPS?

Concerning standards, CCPS has initiated on topics important in nature which include standardization in sizes of doors and windows, hand held power tools, use of glass in buildings on human safety etc. Training is the other field where CCPS has worked to develop a brand to enhance the value of trained workers. Compiling and making available market data like building permit data helps to create accurate forecast for the future.

Will you please elaborate the procedure adopted for developing the glass safety code?

This is a good question. For developing glass code, we have adopted world wide accepted practice and norms. "Guidelines on use of glass in buildings – Human Safety" was developed by constituting a Steering Committee of more than 111 experts from Ministry of Urban Development, CPWD, various PWDs, major municipalities, leading architects & engineers, glass manufacturers, processors and other stakeholders. Four meetings were organised, two at Delhi and one each at Mumbai & Bangalore to finalise the guidelines adopting the consensus approach. The guidelines were further reviewed by an Expert Committee headed by former Director General, Central PWD. Since subject was very important and need for safety norms was felt urgently, contribution and participation by the members was very encouraging.

How much has the government been co operative in the matter of standardization?

The central government as well as state governments have been very appreciative. It is for the first time in India that such a standard has been developed by an NGO. Five years ago, people said that only government can make standards. No industry or institution can develop them.

But, today, we have proved this opinion false. In the U.S.A., there is a Multi Standard Act, which allows public sector to develop such standards.

Now, we have a feeling of satisfaction. Planning Commission, Deptt. of Consumer Affairs and BIS have appreciated the efforts of CCPS. Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Central PWD and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation have issued necessary orders for mandatory implementation of guidelines to ensure human safety while using glass in buildings. Slowly other states like Maharashtra and Rajasthan are also feeling necessity to implement these guidelines. You know, governmental procedures are lengthy and prioritized, I feel other states like Haryana, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and local bodies like NOIDA, MCD, DDA should also come forward to decide on this issue.

How much support could CCPS get from the industry in its mission?

In this matter, I am very much disappointed with the attitude of the industry in general. However the Indian glass industry is one sector that has worked with CCPS and has allowed us to prove our concepts. The Guidelines on use of glass is one shining example. Lots remained to be done in the areas which are still untouched like acoustics, hardware fittings, Safety in building construction, facility management services, skill upgradation etc.

What, in your opinion, is the result of Utilisation of high performance material?

The result of utilization of high performance material is that Indian glass industry is growing at a very fast pace. High quality Indian products are now honoured across the world.

Has CCPS been successful so far in doing something in the field of Green Architecture?

Yes, every programme, taken up by CCPS, sustainability is the one core concern.

How effective, in your opinion, is the role of an architect in the development of glass industry?

In my opinion, the role of an architect is basic. Therefore, it is very important.