

VISIT TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANT AT BICHOLIM



Members of the IEI Goa State Centre seen at the site of the Solid Waste Management Plant at Bicholim along with its officials

On Gandhi Jayanti, 2nd October 2015, a visit was organized to the Solid Waste Management Plant at Bicholim, which is operated by the Bicholim Municipality. The delegates were received and shown around by Mr. Bhanudas Naik, Chief Officer – Bicholim Municipality, and Mr. Prashant Fogueri, Plant In charge.

This plant was commissioned in 2010, at a cost of Rs 2 Crore on an area of 48,000 sq.m. It handles about 7 tones of garbage per day, serving a population of 14,000 people. It was the first such plant to be set up in Goa. Later, similar plants were set up in Cuncolien and Sankhali.

In spite of having separate bins for wet and for dry garbage, the plant generally receives mixed waste, which has to be segregated manually. The IEI members were pleased to observe that the workers were using PPEs (Personal Protection Equipments) like gumboots, face masks and PVC hand gloves, which were provided to them. After segregation, dry plastic waste is compressed using a hydraulic press and tied in bales weighing 100 to 110 Kgs each, and the wet waste

is kept in heaps for drying. It takes 21 days for this waste to be sufficiently dry for further processing.

The dried material is loaded into the machine, where metallic particles are removed using an electromagnet, and light plastic particles are removed using a blower. It is then passed through the screening and crushing machine, and the result is manure which looks like dark brown mud and does not have any smell at all. The plant generates revenue of about Rs 15,000 per month on the sale of this manure.

The bales of plastic are sent to some factories in Karnataka where they are processed for the manufacture of fuel.

It is important for people to visit such plants to know how much effort is required to process the waste, though it is generated so easily. Each citizen should make a conscious effort to minimize waste generation, and take a little trouble to segregate his waste into the dry and wet garbage bins provided.

On the way, the participants were shown the cable-stayed bridge at Corjuem and the metal-arch type bridge at Calvin. The salient features of these two types of bridges were explained.

Twelve IEI members participated in the trip which was organized by Er. Anwar Khan.