

FILE NAME: Shree Digvijay (SDV)

DATE: 1980

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Barry Castleman Photos with Notes - Photographic Investigation of Shree Digvijay Cement Co.

Photographic Investigation of Shree Digvijay Cement Company

This plant is in Ahmedabad, India, and was built around 1962. It produces asbestos-cement pipes and sheets, in the amount of around 50,000 tons/year. Exports have been rising, and totaled 3,972 tons in 1977.

Johns-Manville has been the source of technical advice from the time of the plant's construction onward. During the years 1962-65, J-M was issued a stock valued at 1.25 million rupees (about \$200,000). J-M is the sole selling agent for the company's asbestos products for the Middle East and Africa.

My co-worker Bob Mayes notes that,

No asbestos products are labeled here. I asked people at both Shree Digvijay and Brake Linings, Ltd., and they said no. I met a fellow who hauls products back and forth from the cement factory into town, and then at the brake lining factory I asked one of the workers. There's no labeling. I also went to a dealer here in Delhi who deals in asbestos products. Nothing, no warning labels, and in fact none of these people were aware of any health hazard from asbestos.

Mayes' photos taken in January, 1980, show asbestos wastes strewn all around the plant environs, and wastewater pipes discharging almost opaque effluent. Children play on the asbestos dumps, and poor people have used waste hunks of asbestos-cement sheet and pipes to build their homes.

References: Bombay Stock Exchange Directory (current and updated monthly)
Directory of Foreign Collaboration in India (1974)

February 27, 1980





