

FILE NAME: Shree Digvijay (SDV)

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(ASBESTOS PRODUCTS DIVISION)

85763-85762-85761-85760

JAMNAGAR AHMEDABAD

LOIUE 012-345 5000 IN

P. O. DIGVIJAYNAGAR

AHMEDABAD 382470

(INDIA)

April 06, 1981.

Michael Kenward, Esq.
The Editor,
New Scientist,
Commonwealth House,
1-19, New Oxford Street,
LONDON WC1A 1NG

Dear Sir,

We have been rather astonished to read Mr. Barry Castleman's article on our Unit Shree Digvijay Cement Factory (Asbestos Products Division) at Digvijaynagar, Ahmedabad in your issue of 26th February, 1981 under heading 'Double Standards Asbestos in India'. To the best of our knowledge, neither Mr. Barry Castleman nor any authorised representative of your journal visited our plant.

The allegations made in the report are far from truth. As an employer, we are conscious of industrial hygiene and we provide adequate working conditions to safeguard health of our community. The Company has provided in the factory expensive Dust Extraction equipments. Besides this, several other measures have been taken and are also in the process of implementation and we feel that the conditions described by you are rather imaginary.

Workers are periodically examined by Doctors and during 18 years of our operation, we have hardly found a case, as alarming and serious as magnified in your article, which can be attributed to the working conditions in our plant.

Local Government Factory Inspectors, Officials and Doctors periodically visit our plant to check whether we comply with the Indian Rules & Regulations or not. Therefore, such an article in a magazine like yours has not only estranged our feelings and that of the entire Indian Asbestos Industry, but have also challenged the authenticity norms, rules and regulations of State and Central Government of India.

You will please appreciate that improvement in any Industry is a continuous process, and we are quite alive and conscious of our responsibility in implementing innovations and improvements for the betterment of the workmen and community.

We are surprised that without taking the trouble to at least check with us the truth, such wild allegations could be made against us and a misleading article should find a place and patronage by a magazine like yours. We must say, you have been more than unfair to us, M/s. Johns Manville, U.S.A, our Collaborators and to the entire Asbestos Industry in general, and to India in particular.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
for Shree Digvijay Cement Co. Ltd.

(S.R. BHANDARI)
GEN. MANAGER.

REGD. OFFICE : DIGVIJAYGRAM, VIA JAMNAGAR.

Some language
as HF/T+N
letter

new
improvements?

don't deny
that there has
been disease

wrapping the
industry in the
flag of India;
indignation

pictures?

chutypah

L. comment
Ack