



Guarding against unprecedented accidents and disasters is also on the agenda. This accounts for fire safety, spills, injuries etc. Fire-fighting equipments from Vijay Industries for example, provide industries with reliable assistance against shopfloor fires. Spills and leakages if detected

Accidents and material wastage eat into productive time and money of an organisation

in good time can prompt corrective action. As far as injuries go, factory personnel can often suffer from progressive blurring of vision to fractures and burns. Ailments as common as irritation of the nose and throat are quite ubiquitous, in chemical industries. As Dr P K Rane, experienced industrial psychologist puts it, "Modern technology is definitely an enabler, if used with care." He referred to the faulty use of forklifts, nail guns and the like which have resulted not just in injuries but also in fatalities.

In addition to in-house shopfloor safety efforts by industries, there are



"Safety equipments which were not heard of several years ago, are now finding not just a good domestic market but also a sizable export market in SAARC countries and Africa."

Dinesh Parekh, President, TBIA

"Seriousness of corrosion prevention has penetrated into the industry"

(Corcon 2000 held recently will still be fresh in the minds of many readers (read the report on Corcon elsewhere in the issue). **Rajeev Kandhari** of **Pentax Ferro** has been active in the corrosion control industry. He spoke to G Venkatesh about the status of corrosion prevention in the Indian industry. A summary of his views follows:



● How seriously is corrosion prevention being taken in the industry?

As concerns seriousness of corrosion prevention, it is understood to have superficially penetrated sectors like oil, petroleum and power transmission in our country, which may only constitute 25% of the identified corrosion areas. Unexplored sectors like agricultural, construction (roads, bridges, buildings, ports, flyovers, etc), automobile, industrial, sugar, pipeline distribution, shipping, aeronautics, etc are yet to be recognized in terms of corrosion preventive measures. It is believed that India's loss due to corrosion is Rs 24000 crore annually, at least 25% of which can

be saved through corrosion control.

● Are there preventive maintenance activities being undertaken or is it only after damage occurs?

Well, after a fair amount of global awareness on corrosion, remote measures are taken on preventive maintenance in India, though on very restrictive areas. Further, sizable amount of the existing problem of corrosion, are dealt only after the damage has occurred on retrospective basis.

● Corrosion is given more importance in the oil & petrochemical industry. How is it in general engineering sector?

In the engineering sector though quite a few harmful effects of corrosion have been surfaced no concrete measures have yet been taken to decide a policy on corrosion control. Moreover in India the general Engineering sector lacks awareness on qualitative approach and control of corrosion. However, oil and petrochemical industry is more analytical and research oriented in their measures against corrosion.

"Safety equipment industry has grown at a more rapid rate than the IT industry"

DATS (Digital Alarm Technologies (India) Private Limited) is among the leaders in safety and security equipment for industries and other commercial establishments. **G Venkatesh** spoke to **Sudhir Verma**, General Manager (Business Development Group) of **DATS**, in Chennai. Excerpts from the interesting interview follow:

● Let us focus on the fire suppression systems only in this interview. Could you dwell briefly on the replacement of Halon as the gas used in the fire extinguisher?

Let us flash back to the beginning when water-based fire suppression agents were used. In 1970, they were replaced by Halon. Now, with the problem of ozone depletion catching up, halon has to

go out totally by 2005. Among the substitutes which have been considered are NAF SIII (NAF stands for North American Fire Guardian) and FM 200. The former has a higher ozone depletion potential than FM 200. But, it loses out on the global warming potential (which is normally abbreviated as GWP). NAF SIII will have to go out in another 40 years' time.

● Do you have a manufacturing outfit in the country, for your fire suppression systems?

No, we are only system integrators. The cylinders come from Spain, the gas from USA or Canada and the nozzles from Italy. These are integrated here for end use. However, these units which are imported have to be certified by the

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