

**Intervention by Mr. Rajiva Mishra in the Round Table on
“Strategies for Sustainable Chemicals and Waste management”,
High level Segment - CSD 18
13 May 2010**

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates:

We associate ourselves with the statement made by the Group of 77.

The deliberations in this conference reflect the global community's shared interest to make this planet safe for the present and future generations. Chemicals represent a vital element of economic development encompassing virtually the entire spectrum of human activity. Indian chemical industry manufactures more than 70,000 commercial products and contributes significantly towards industrial and economic growth accounting for 3% of our GDP. Sound management of chemicals, therefore, is essential to achieving long term growth, including eradication of poverty and improvement of quality of life of our people.

Mr. Chairperson,

Solid waste generation is predominantly an industrial and urban problem, which has exacerbated over the years due to changing lifestyles and increasing consumerism, resulting from rapid urbanization. Presently about 200 million tonnes of non-hazardous waste of industrial and mining origin, 6.23 million tonnes of hazardous waste, 57 million tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW), and about 350 million tonnes of other waste from agricultural sources are generated in the country.

India has developed a robust, overarching legislative framework for sound management of chemicals and waste. I would like to focus my thoughts on some of the issues, which in my view are basic to meeting the objectives of a sound management of chemicals and waste.

The first issue is how to integrate the informal sector into the formalized regime as in India a large number of informal sectors are involved for collection and segregation of e-waste.

The second issue is to explore alternative utilization of Hazardous Waste instead of traditional disposal on land and thus maximizing their optimal use. India has about 36,000 industrial units generating hazardous waste. Waste having high calorific value is being co-processed in cement industries and the experience has been encouraging. The utilization of such waste is being attempted for other sectors like power and steel industry as well.

The third issue relates to the positive results in India in setting up of Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF) for Hazardous Waste in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. As on date we have 25 such facilities and 8 are under construction.

The fourth issue relates to food security and public health. Use of chemicals and pesticides is critical to food security. There is an equally important public health dimension to the use of chemicals. We use DDT for malaria control and are conscious of the harmful effects of DDT. Many Countries, including India feel compelled to continue using DDT as it has overriding utility from public health perspective.

The fifth issue relates to listing of new chemicals within the purview of ban and restrictions under the multilateral environmental agreements. We need to follow a calibrated and scientific approach and not be overzealous to quickly bring more chemicals into the purview.

The sixth issue relates to prevention, mitigation and management of chemical accidents. India has developed an IT enabled Web Based Chemical Emergency Planning and Response System comprising digitized maps and location specific data of the maximum accident hazard units. This has improved our emergency preparedness. To facilitate flow of chemical accidents information, an online web based Chemical Accident Information and Reporting System (CAIRS) has been developed.

The seventh issue is regarding the limited availability of financial resources and the need for technical capacity building for Chemical and Waste management for developing countries. Only limited financial resources are available for implementation of the obligation under the Stockholm Convention. This needs to be supplemented.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.