



expresso

Pic: K Rajesh Kumar

DEVELOPMENT

'Say yes to plastic'



PLASTIC waste disposal will be smooth once the authorities concerned give their approval to use plastic waste for the construction of roads. As an initial step CREDAI Clean City Movement has tied up with the Kochi Corporation to construct roads using pellets processed from plastic waste generated at the Ravipuram shredding unit.

The movement is supported by the research wing of BPCL-Cochin Refinery Ltd. As an initial step the members are planning to take up the work of 1 km stretch at Manappattiparambu, said project director of the movement Kabeer B Haroon.

The movement will be successful only if the PWD takes the initiative to approve the use of plastic pellets for road

laying, he said. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been using plastic waste extensively for road laying, he said.

About five years ago the NHAI constructed a road at Kariavattom on a trial basis and it remains intact even now. The Rajagiri Institute of Social Sciences used a similar method to lay road more than five years ago.

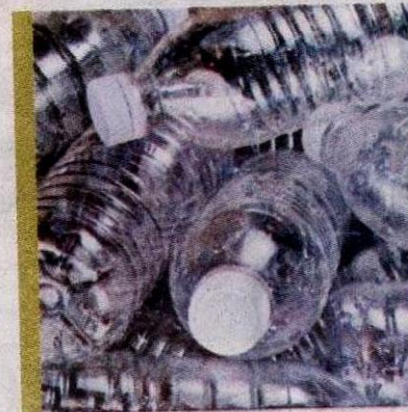
The movement has generated about 3.2 tonnes of plastic pellets using cheap plastics, carry bags, disposable cups and pet bottles from the shredding unit at Ravipuram. They were man aging the unit as per an arrangement with the Kochi Corporation in January this year. The production at the unit during the first month was 350 kg and it had been increasing every month.

The unit is run by two workers and there are drivers to operate two vehicles which collect waste from about 190 flats

which have joined the movement, he said. The Corporation has promised to give more vehicles to the CREDAI Clean City movement depending on the success of the project, Kabeer said.

The movement is gaining strength at the district level and a committee has been formed by the Collector. She has directed the local bodies to prepare a report on the project at the earliest. The Thrikkakkara panchayat has included in its plan fund a proposal to set up a plastic shredding unit at the panchayat to cater to the needs of the people, Kabeer said.

Highlighting the plus points of using plastic waste, he said that it helped in saving about 6 to 10 percent of bitumen. Plastic pellets are blended at over 170 degrees against 120 degrees, which is the normal procedure for road laying. The new method helps the road to with-



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stand high humidity and prevents cracking, he said. The plastic presence prevents the penetration of water through the road surface during rainy season thereby increasing its durability.

According to the study conducted by a Bangalore-based firm in association with RV College of Engineering, Bangalore, the lifespan of plastic blended roads is much longer than that of conventional roads.

Express News Service
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