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BRICK MAKING IN INDIA – HISTORY

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ABSTRACT:

It is estimated that India has more than 100,000 brick kilns producing about 250 billion bricks annually, employing about 15 million workers and consuming about 35 million tons of coal annually. The brick industry is growing as the demand for bricks is increasing in the towns and villages due to the fast economic growth, urbanization and prosperity. It is alarming to note that 300 mm depth of fertile top soil in India will be consumed for burnt clay brick production in about 60 years. Usually, brick kilns are situated in rural and/or periphery of urban areas in the country. The objective of this paper is to know the history and genesis of Brick industry in India. The secondary data is collected for the purpose of knowing history of brick industry in world and especially in India. It is found that the process of making a brick has not changed much over the centuries or across geographies. The brick sector in India is unorganized and is tremendous in size and spread. India is the second largest brick producer (China dominates with 54 % share) in the world. The bricks industries have challenges like rapid increase in brick production, environmental concerns, use of large quantities of coal in brick kilns, use of good quality agriculture topsoil for brick production, shortage of workers, Increased competition etc. There is need to prepare action plan for sustainable development of Brick industry in India.

KEYWORDS: Brick Industry, History, Process, Challenges.

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