

Raj Kumar Prajapati, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Plant at a glance



One of the early birds of VSBK technology, Shri. Prajapati started his VSBK venture way back in December 2002. After seeing the flourishing of VSBK units in and around Gwalior, he made up his mind to adopt VSBK technology due to consistent quality and substantial coal savings.

Inspiration of adopting VSBK technology also came from Shri. Narayan Das Prajapati who expanded his VSBK from 2 to 6 shafts within a span of 3 years.

Name:	Raj Kumar Prajapati
Tel no.:	9827016899
Plant:	M/S Krishna Bricks, Village - Ajaypur, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
Plant type:	2 shaft VSBK
Production capacity:	20,00,000 bricks per annum
Year of establishment	December 2002
Coal consumption	
External	6 ton/100,000 bricks
Internal	12 ton/100,000 bricks (Rice husk and boiler ash)

His initial business of producing bricks from clamps was slowly being difficult to sustain in Gwalior market due to increased competition on quality bricks being produced from fixed chimney BTK's. Profitability margins were also coming down due to increased price of coal. Thus the features of VSBK became attractive to overcome these problems. Not only coal savings, VSBK gave him freedom from dependency from fire masters.

The unique feature in this VSBK is the construction of an elongated RCC ramp. The ramp was so designed that dried green bricks could be transported from nearby moulding area and stacked near the ramp for lifting to the loading platform. This VSBK was also the first one to have a metal chimney with dampers replacing the usual brick masonry chimney. Although the cost of these types of chimney was very high compared to ordinary masonry, entrepreneurs preferred this design since it gave them freedom from maintenance and greater control on fire movement.

During initial operation for a year, he faced a lot of problems due to very high smoke from the chimney and non availability of required coal quality. Minor modification in chimney and setting patterns helped to reduce smoke from the shaft. Improvement in coal quality also helped in reducing smoke. Kiln operators were trained in controlling the setting density and benchmark VSBK operation rules. With improved internal fuel the external coal consumption came down between 4 - 6 tonnes per lakh of fired bricks compared to more than 20-24 tonnes in clamps. Good strength, average ring and a cherry red colour in fired bricks has helped him in establishing a quality niche in Gwalior brick market.



Background

With little educational background Shri. Prajapati has been associated with brick business right from his childhood days. The art of brick making was thus in his blood and helped him to quickly adapt to the changing scenario. Thus from the very beginning he could foresee the existence in the brick market based on quality. With the profits being accumulated from clamp firing he started the VSBK business and never looked back since then. Thus from a worker he turned into an owner.

“I could foresee that there will be stiff competition in the market due to establishment of fixed chimney BTK's which produce very good quality fired bricks than clamps. I realized that with my clamp technology I will not be able to compete with them. Thus I invested in VSBK and thank TARA for showing me the way at an appropriate time. In any market there are still quality conscious consumers who will pay any price to get a good product. Through my VSBK bricks I cater to this market. Anybody who wants quality fired clay bricks now comes to me.”