



Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, and V. V. Nagovitsin, Chairman of the Inter-regional Association of the Economic Cooperation of the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation signed the Protocol on Fly Ash in presence of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India and Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, The President of Russia at The Kremlin on 16th December, 2011 after the bilateral summit level talks between the two sides.

The Protocol of Intentions between the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Interregional Association "Siberian Accord" Siberian Federal District, Russian Federation on fly ash utilization and safe management is for implementation of the mechanism similar to "Fly Ash Mission - India" in the Siberian Federal District, to facilitate development and application of technologies for utilization and safe management of fly ash, including import of technologies from India.

It also envisages:

- i. Exchange of experience and expertise
- ii. Development, proving and application of technologies
- iii. Development and implementation of investment projects of companies/government organizations to establish enterprises
- iv. Enhancing cooperation between Russian and Indian scientists

The "Fly Ash Mission - India" through development & application of technologies has turned around the image of fly ash from a "WASTE MATERIAL" to a "RESOURCE MATERIAL", *inter alia*, increased its utilization in the country from 1 million tonne (1994) to 100 million tonne (2010-11) reducing annual CO₂ generation by 55 Million Tonne, reduction in consumption of a number of mineral resources, generation of employment for more than 1 Million and added economic returns worth more than US \$ 3 Billion.