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The economic significance of corrosion problems have been felt only very recently. It has been shown that more than 23 % of these losses could have been saved using existing technology. A closer examination of the recent survey of corrosion problems in Sri Lanka indicates that it is not improbable to achieve a similar percentage saving in our country.

The major reason for water-side corrosion of boilers appears to be the poor quality of the boiler feed water. The feed water quality can be controlled by introducing oxygen scavengers while the hardness can be controlled by using a water softening plant containing cation and anion exchange resins. Adequate buffering of the medium and controlling the pH and the chloride content of the waters are of paramount importance to avoid caustic cracking and perforations in the boiler.

Low hardness and medium pH waters are essential to be used in air-conditioning systems and heat exchangers to avoid clogging of tubes and hole formation due to overheating. Such scale formation greatly reduces the heat transfer characteristics as well.

Pumps, compressors and blowers can also be protected by coating the impellers with an epoxy resin using waters having low suspended solid content and also using air, free of chemical corrosives and low humidity in the case of compressors and blowers.

Submerged equipment and underground pipelines can adequately be protected by the application of a zinc rich primer along with coal tar epoxy followed by cathodic protection.

Structures exposed to sea water environment may be protected either by applying an anticorrosive "Epikote" or by the application of a red lead primer followed by a bituminous aluminium paint.

This data shows that most of the corrosion problems can adequately be controlled by a judicious choice of the protective procedure. What is required is a greater awareness of the problems themselves.