

## Ceramic Institute

Growing needs of the country call for development of ceramics and glass products on larger scale. The UNDP's approval of a project for assistance to the Ceramics Institute is therefore a welcome step to supplement the efforts in this direction. During the last few years both ceramics and glass industries have shown an inspiring sign of growth in Bangladesh. But the problems facing them create obstacles in their development process. These problems are mainly related to the scanty availability of machines, spare parts, chemicals and raw materials. The number of expert and skilled personnel in the field is not enough to meet the requirements.

Apart from earmarking certain amount of funds for equipment, the UNDP project envisages overseas training for the personnel and a total of 42 man-months of advisory service in the field of fine ceramics, glass technology, mould marking and testing and quality control. It also emphasises local

production of ceramics and glassware and their import substitutions by improving their quality with the maximum utilization of locally available raw materials. It is expected to establish common service facilities at the Ceramics Institute to help in improving the quality of the products and in producing selected new items.

Furthermore, the project is expected to improve the Institute's consultancy services. This is primarily aimed at enabling the ceramics and glassware industries to identify and remove the defects following poor composition of bodies, defective quality of moulds, etc. While these defects are being removed, serious attention has to be paid to solve other problems creating obstacles in the growth and development of these industries. Those who will receive overseas training must devote themselves to acquire perfect knowledge and skills that would be of the first importance in achieving this end.