

## A New Lease of Life



The main drive, encrusted with 28 years of paint, and closeup showing lock-pins



Stages of refurbishment and assembly

Naturally, being used to reading news stories written by engineers, you will find this one odd. But the editors of MeynConnect have kindly allowed me to narrate my own story on the Meyn Official Website and to repeat it here it on APTEC's.

I was sent amidst much fanfare in 1986, to be part of the first chicken processing plant in India at a new building Venkateshwara Hatcheries had erected at Kamshet. When the new plant was commissioned, big press conferences were held, with the Late Dr B. V. Rao proudly presiding. Among the dozen or so machines installed there, at 6 metres of length, with a formidable looking gearbox at each end and weighing over a ton overall, I stood proudly out as the obvious Leading Lady!

Recently, after a quarter century in operation, when the Company celebrated the Silver Jubilee, my Moment of Glory returned for a short while. Alas, it was soon thereafter that

they noticed my gearboxes had started squeaking. And these being encrusted in coats of paint applied year after year, the maintenance crew was scared to take them apart to investigate. You see, I had already become a vintage model, current models shared neither specifications nor spare parts with me. It looked like curtains for me!!

But fate decreed otherwise, as there was this added complication. A succession of managers, trusting in my apparent immortality, had constructed a maze of rooms and workplaces all around my location. Being as bulky as I am, I was locked in position! They could neither replace nor repair me.

It was then that the caring engineers at Meyn decided to rebuild me, adapting my end-plates to suit modern gearboxes, bearings, oil-seals, couplings, spacers and supports. I was taken apart and shipped to a local workshop and an operation continued over a three day stretch in March 2014. The plant personnel, all of them being my friends and well-wishers, united in prayer for a happy ending for me. Then they brought my various organs together and reassembled me in my original position.

Happily, as these pictures will show – I am back in operation, proud to be the Leading Lady once again, ready to serve Venkateshwara Hatcheries for the next quarter century.

The next time people ask you how long Meyn machines last. Do not give them any stock answer. Refer them to me and tell them “We have a Leading Lady with a facelift, aiming to reach the half century mark, somewhere on the west cost of India.”

In fact the truth is that they last as long as you care for them. They never give up on you!