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Petro-Chemistry and its Major Applications

Rohit Murmu*

Department of Chemical Engineering, Annamalai University, India

INTRODUCTION

Any of a huge number of chemicals generated from petroleum and natural gas and utilized in a variety of commercial applications are referred to as petrochemicals in the broadest sense. These substances aren't fuels. However, the concept has been broadened to encompass all aliphatic, aromatic, and naphthenic organic compounds as well as inorganic elements like sulphur and ammonia. In many cases, a specific chemical that is present in petrochemicals can also be derived from other sources, such as coal, coke, or vegetable products. While ethyl alcohol can be produced from petrochemicals or plants, substances like benzene and naphthalene can be produced from coal or petroleum. As a result, it can be difficult to categories a substance as entirely petrochemical or non-petrochemical.

DESCRIPTION

Petrochemical-based goods include, for instance, plastics, soaps and detergents, solvents, medications, fertilizers, insecticides, explosives, synthetic fibres and rubbers, paints, epoxy resins, flooring, and insulating materials. Petrochemicals are used in a wide range of goods, including aspirin, luggage, boats, cars, aeroplanes, polyester clothing, and recording discs and tapes. Like natural gas and crude oil, petrochemicals, usually referred to as hydrocarbons, are largely composed of carbon and hydrogen. When a carbon atom is joined to another by a single bond, a molecule is said to be "saturated." If there are one or more double bonds connecting the molecules, they are said to be unsaturated. Unsaturated chemicals are favoured as petrochemical feedstocks because of their enhanced chemical reactivity and simplicity in converting into other petrochemicals.

The different petroleum byproducts used as raw materials in the manufacture of other chemicals are known as feedstocks. Olefins, aromatics, and a third group of petrochemical feedstocks that comprises inorganics and synthesis gas are the three primary types. Unsaturated olefins with straight-chained molecules include butadiene, propylene, and ethylene. The hydrocarbon feedstock that is used most frequently in the petrochemical sector is ethylene. Styrene is used in polyesters, plastics, resins, and synthetic rubber. Ethylene dichloride, which is vinyl chloride and is used in fibres and plastics, is produced from ethylene and is used in polyester resins and antifreezes. Ethylene glycol, a solvent and chemical reagent, is also produced from ethylene. Propylene is used to make carpets, rubbing alcohol, epoxy glue, and acrylic paint. It is used to create synthetic rubber, carpet fibres, paper coatings, plastic pipes, and butadiene. Unsaturated hydrocarbon molecules with rings make up aromatics. The main aromatic feedstocks include benzene, toluene, xylene, and naphthalene. The primary ingredient of polystyrene plastics, styrene, is created using benzene. It is used to make paints, epoxy resins, glues, and other adhesives. The main uses of toluene are in explosives, fuel additives, and solvents. Xylene, which is also used to purify gasoline, is a component of plastics, synthetic textiles, and gasoline. Naphthalene is a frequent component in pesticides. Synthetic gas is used to create methanol and ammonia. The main application of ammonia is as a source of fertiliser known as ammonium nitrate. A sizeable portion of the methanol produced is converted to formaldehyde. The remaining half is used to produce polymers, polyester fibres, and silicone rubber.

CONCLUSION

The main driving force behind the petrochemical sector was the invention of the thermal-cracking technology for refining crude oil in 1913. The process's gaseous byproducts were first exclusively utilized as fuel or lighting gas, but in the 1920s and 1930s it was found that they could also be used as chemical raw materials. Following the 1937 advent of catalytic cracking and expanded natural gas supplies, the industry continued to expand.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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Corresponding author Rohit Murmu, Department of Chemical Engineering, Annamalai University, India, Email: murmur_r1989@gmail.com

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