John&Kemick	REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA PATENTS ACT, 1978 APPLICATION FOR A PATENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIP (Section 30(1) — Regulation 22)		R5	85 R20	
The grant of a patent is hereby reques applicant on the present application fi	sted by the undermentions iled in duplicate	× ***	A. 3		
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54 Title of invention			MINTEK LIBRARY		
"MATERIALS FEEDER ASSEMBLY"			P.4236		
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WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1.

A materials feeder assembly comprising a rotatable drum having a closed lower end and having its axis at an incline to the horizontal and an open upper end, a single or multiple helical flight formation rotatable in unison with the drum and adapted to cause materials in the drum to be moved up the inclined sidewall thereof upon rotation of the drum in a predetermined direction, a chute or duct extending downwardly at an incline into the drum to terminate with an open end in a lower region of the drum, and adapted to communicate, at its upper end, with a container for storing a supply of materials.

- 2. A materials feeder assembly according to claim 1 wherein the helical flight formation is attached to the inner surface of the drum.
- A materials feeder assembly according to either of the preceding claims wherein the helical flight formation is attached to an inner cylinder.
- A materials feeder assembly according to claim 3 wherein the inner cylinder is supported at its operatively lower end by a plurality of rods angularly spaced apart, which define a squirrel cage type of structure.
- A materials feeder assembly according to either claim 3 or claim 4 wherein the inner cylinder is secured at its operatively upper end by means of outwardly extending arms, and wherein the upper end of the drum is suitably flanged to receive the arms which are releasably attached thereto.

...**.**

- A materials feeder assembly according to any one of claims 3 to 5 wherein an inwardly directed flange or ring is located near the operatively upper end of the inner cylinder to prevent any material emerging from the feed chute from exiting directly from the upper end of the drum assembly.
- 7. A materials feeder assembly according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the drum is cantilever mounted at its lower end on an axle rigid with the drum.
- 8. A materials feeder assembly according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the drum is located within a housing through which the feed chute or duct extends, and wherein the housing has an outlet beneath the discharge end of the drum.
- 9. A materials feeder assembly according to claim 8 wherein the housing is substantially sealed to atmosphere.

- 10. A materials feeder assembly according to claim 8 wherein the housing is purged with an inert gas.
- 11. A materials feeder assembly according to claim 1 and substantially as described in the accompanying description with reference to either Fig. 1 or Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.
- 12. A rotatable drum according to any one of the preceding claims which is specifically adapated to cause materials in the drum to be moved up the inclined sidewall thereof upon rotation of the drum in a predetermined direction.

DATED THIS 10th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1984

JOHN & KERNICK for the Applicant