**9**. An apparatus for introducing a catalyst powder into a polymerization reactor, the apparatus comprising:

a tank or a hopper for the storage of said catalyst powder;

a metering rotary valve comprising a stator, a rotor, a sealing means ~~comprising a double sequence of sealing rings~~ and arranged between said stator and said rotor, and a flushing means comprising at least one internal conduit arranged in said rotor along in its axial direction for feeding a flushing compound inside the rotor of said valve; and

a transfer means ~~comprising a transfer line~~ for conveying a metered amount of catalyst powder to said polymerization reactor.

**10**. The apparatus according to claim **9**, wherein said at least one internal conduit is in communication with chambers situated in proximity of said sealing means.

**11**. The apparatus according to claim **9**, wherein the rotor of said rotary valve comprises at least one recesses for collecting and metering the catalyst powder.