

DEPARTMENTAL
SECRETARIES
ESSENTIAL AT
ACCOUNTS MEET

Wire rod mill sets Jindal plans rolling

NEW PASTURES Union steel minister dedicates plant to nation

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RANCHI: Representation through subordinates would not suffice at the Assembly's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meet. Departmental secretaries would have to be present whenever the PAC meets to review financial irregularities or mismanagement of a concerned department.

This was mentioned by Sarfaraz Ahmad, chairman of the PAC in no uncertain terms to the officials, while reviewing the action taken report of the rural development department on the financial irregularities or mismanagement pointed out in the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report.

Ahmad told the chief secretary to ensure that departmental secretaries are informed ten days in advance about the review of their department, so that they could do their homework. The PAC chairman also

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RAMGARH: Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL), the flagship company of the O P Jindal group, added yet another feather to its cap on Saturday, with the commissioning of 0.6 million tons (MT) wire rod mill. This is the first in the chain of its ambitious 6 million tonnes integrated steel plant at Balkudra in Ramgarh. Union steel minister, Virbhadr Singh, dedicated the mill to the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, the steel minister lauded the efforts of JSPL and expressed hope that the company would contribute positively to meet the targets. He said that the demand for steel was rising by the day. "The annual target of steel and iron production of the country is 65 MT, which will go up to 120-124 MT by 2011," he



Union Steel minister Virbhadr Singh, industrialist Navin Jindal, Chief Minister Sibhu Soren, Union food processing minister Subodhkant Sahai at the first unit of the Jindal Steel and Power Limited after its inauguration in Pratratu on Saturday. HT PHOTO

said.

Singh underlined that the government has pumped in Rs 80,000 crore for augmentation and improvement of various steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and other public/government owned

plants.

The steel minister said that the Centre was committed to development of the region. The minister laid emphasis on the improvement of law and order situation. "Progress can be made only in an environment

of peace and tranquility," he said. In his speech, CM Sibhu Soren quipped at the development process and opined, "Industrialization should not take place at the cost of the lives of poor people."

Earlier, providing details of the plant and the project, JSPL executive vice-president and managing director, Naveen Jindal, said that the dream of his father, the Late O P Jindal, could be turned into a reality with the cooperation of the government, administrative machinery and local people.

A host of ministers and public representatives, local villagers, JSPL employees and bureaucrats were present on the occasion.

Among them were Subodh Kant Sahai, C P Singh, Raghubar Das and Sudesh Mahto, Yashwant Sinha, C P Choudhary and steel secretary Atul Chaturvedi..

Virbhadr Singh, CM inaugurate Patratu unit

JSPL's dream is finally a reality

SANTOSH K. KIRO

Patratu, April 24: Chief minister Sibhu Soren and Union steel minister Virbhadr Singh inaugurated a 0.6 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) wire rod mill set up by Jindal Power and Steel Limited (JSPL) in Patratu, 40km from the state capital, today.

Deputy chief ministers Raghubar Das and Sudesh Mahto, state ministers Hemal Murmu and Umakant Rajak, legislators Hemant Soren and Saurabh Narayan Singh, Union minister Subodh Kant Sahai and JSPL managing director Naveen Jindal were among those present on the occasion.

Jindal, who arrived here with several top officials, thanked the local people and state government for helping him realise his "dream".

The wire rod mill will be a part of the 6 MTPA steel plant the company is setting up at the spot - the third in Jharkhand after the Tata and Bokaro steel plants.

"So many other corporate houses have dreams of setting up steel plants in Jharkhand. But, we have succeeded in our mission ahead of others and this has been possible because the cooperation of the local people and the state government," Jindal said, addressing a large gathering of villagers and officials.

JSPL bought 550 acres from Bihar Alloys and Steel Limited (BASL) in Patratu in 2007 and began setting up the proposed steel plant. The company also purchased another 500 acres of land directly from villagers.

Jindal promised to step up production to 3 MTPA by March 2012. The plant, he added, would function at its full capacity, 6 MTPA, from 2014 with a total investment of



JSPL MD Naveen Jindal (left) shows Union steel minister Virbhadr Singh the new plant in Patratu on Saturday. Picture by Prashant Mitra

Rs 25,000 crore.

Patratu steel plant apart, JSPL also plans to set up a 5 MTPA steel plant in Asanbani with an investment of Rs 18,000 crore, work for which has started with a 2016 target.

"We believe in doing, rather than just talking. We also want to set up 2640MW power plant in Dumka and another 660MW power plant in Godda with a total investment of Rs 16,000 crore," said Jindal, a Congress MP, seeking Soren's whole-hearted cooperation.

"The demand for steel is increasing. The Centre plans to increase steel production from 65 MTPA to 124 MTPA by 2012. This will become possible only if private houses set up their establishments," said Union minister Singh in his address.

He said the Centre planned to enhance the capacity of Steel Authority of India Limited.

"We have an investment plan of Rs 80,000 crore in the next two years," he added.

Though Soren appreciated JSPL's efforts, he added that corporate houses should not forget the villagers on whose land the industries were being built.

"The normal belief that the economic condition of villagers improves is not true. Several instances in Jharkhand have proved this. Unless the industrial houses make genuine efforts, real development will not happen," Soren told the gathering.

Sahai, on his part, strongly advocated industrialisation of the state.