

'India must double steel output by 2012'

Mahadeo Sen

Minister Inaugurates JSPL Plant In Ramgarh

Sanjay Ojha | TNN

Patratu (Ramgarh): Dedicating the wire and rod mill of Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) here to the country on Saturday, Union minister of steel Virbhadra Singh said the movement of the wheels of development of the nation depends on three eastern states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa.

The wire and rod mill, a part of the 6 million tonne per annum (MPTA) steel plant, will be fully commissioned over the next four years. The estimated cost of the plant will be around Rs 22,000-25,000 crore. In the next two phases, a bar mill and two integrated steel plant of 3 MPTA each, will be commissioned. The production capacity of wire rod mill is 6 lakh tonne per annum.

"The present annual production of the country — public and private — is around 65 MPTA and it has to be increased to around 120-124 MPTA by 2012. For this, it is necessary that both the Union and the state governments join hands and end all hurdles. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for the country to meet the demand for steel," said Singh, while referring to the inordinate delay caused in commissioning of several greenfield projects in the state, including that of ArcelorMittal, Tata Steel and Jindal South West (JSW) of 12 MPTA each. JSPL's greenfield project of 5

MPTA at Asanboni in East Singhbhum is also waiting due to difficulty in land acquisition.

Chief minister Shibu Soren and Union food processing minister Subodh Kant Sahay were also present at the occasion.

JSPL executive vice-chairman and managing director Naveen Jindal said the company was very serious with all the proposals in Jharkhand and was willing to complete all its proposals on time.

"Apart from this 6 MPTA plant, we have plans to set up another 5 MPTA plant in Asanboni and two power plants. The total generation capacity of the two power plants will be around 2,500 MW," said Jindal, before adding: "From the support we are getting from the people and the Jharkhand government, I am optimistic that things will move at the desired pace."

The total investment of the company in the state in the next few years will be around Rs 55,000 crore.

He also expressed hope that the Jharkhand government will very soon allocate iron ore mine and coal blocks in the state so that the company does not face any hurdle in raw material procurement for the integrated steel plant when commissioned in 2012.

"We are working with dedication and for the growth of Jharkhand. We are not worried about the hurdles in the way," said Jindal.



(Top) Jindal Steel Power Limited chairman Naveen Jindal presents a memento to CM Shibu Soren; (above) Union minister for steel Virbhadra Singh speaks at the JSPL function at Patratu on Saturday