



Bokaro to get Third Greenfield Steel Plant

The government's efforts to promote the state as an industrial hub will get a fillip as Bokaro will get its third Greenfield steel plant, construction for which has begun in the Balidih Industrial Area.

At a time when most of the domestic steelmakers are facing financial crisis, BMW Industries Limited, owned by Kolkata-based industrialist RG Bansal, will install a 0.5 million tonne capacity steel plant on the land allotted by the Bokaro Industrial Area Development Authority (Biada).

S. K Singh, the company's project officer, said the project has started initially with a budget of Rs 300 crore. The company will generate employment for around 1,000 people directly while hundreds of local

youths will be benefited indirectly, he added.

BMW Industries is already running a steel processing unit of prime materials in partnership with SAIL in the Balidih Industrial Area.

This will be the second steel plant after Electrosteel Steels Limited (ESL), which will come up within seven years.

However, the district also has Bokaro Steel (BSL), a subsidiary of SAIL.

The company signed a MoU with the state government on April 2, 2005. But the



process in obtaining clearances and other basic facilities, including electricity and water, delayed the construction. Even Biada had showed caused BMW for delay on its part in installation of the plant in 2013, said sources.

"Construction of the boundary wall has begun on the 40 acres acquired in BIADA while sheds are also being installed. Our steelmaking technology will be Italian. We will primarily produce TMT and other steel products. The construction is likely to be completed within two years' time," said Singh.

BMW Industries has two more steel facilities in Kolkata and a cold rolling mill in Jamshedpur, which became operational in 2014. "The coming up of the mini-steel facility in Bokaro will boast the latest Italian technology-based rolling mill.

BMW will be the first in the country to launch hi-tech rolling mill which will not only be eco friendly but also give the maximum output and quality with cost saving," Singh said.

The running of the steel facility will require 30MW electricity, for which they have initiated talks with Jharkhand State Electricity Board. The company will initially produce rebars and structures.

Singh said the major hurdle faced by the company is agitation led by local residents. Though the company has get land from Biada, but the local residents here are demanding jobs and creating issue for it.

"We have sought co-operation from the district administration to deal with the issues. We have a target to complete the installation process within 18 months time," he added.

With Electrosteel producing 2.51 MTPA and BSL running on 4.5 MTPA capacity, the new unit will increase production capacity of the district to about 7.5 MTPA in next few years.

Tata's Odisha Steel Plant to Begin Commercial Production from April



Tata Steel said it expects commercial production at its Kalinganagar steel plant in Odisha to begin from April. "Some units of the plant like coke oven plant, sinter plant have already started production on a trial basis. The blast furnace and steel melting shop will be on trial in the current quarter (Jan-Mar). So we should be able to start commercial production at Kalinganagar plant from April 2016," Tata Steel Managing Director T. V Narendran said.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration of Indian Iron & Steel Sector Skill Council office at New Town.

With the 3-MT Kalinganagar steel plant's first phase, the Tata Steel India's total capacity will rise to 13 MT.

Narendran said though 2015 was bad for the steel market due to sluggish demand and cheap imports, Tata's Jamshedpur plant will

end the year with production close to its rated capacity of 10 MT.

He said India's steel demand is expected to grow by 5-6 per cent in 2016 and the worst seems to be over.

"Last year (2015) was very bad in terms of global steel prices. But I believe steel prices have hit the bottom. Steel prices in 2016-17 will not be as low as in 2015," he said.

"I am more positive on demand. We are quite hopeful that construction sector, which consumes 60 per cent of the steel produced in the country, is showing sign of improvement. Government's focus on infrastructure and smart cities will help improving demand," he said.

World Steel Council has predicted India's steel demand will grow by 7-8 per cent in the next two years.