



Posco Needs to File Fresh Proposal : Government Official

South Korean steel major Posco would have to file a new proposal for setting up its proposed \$12-billion steel venture in Odisha if it wants to pursue the project.

The company was sounded about it at a recent meeting among officials of the Central government, state government and Posco, convened at Delhi by the cabinet secretary, to break the impasse over the project, hanging fire for 10 years.

"Due to changed circumstances for raw material linkage, Posco has to file a fresh proposal," a senior government official said. "Posco is yet to respond to us on this."

The need for filing anew, according to sources, arises out of denial of allotment of captive mines to the company on a



preferential basis following amendment to the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act. With Posco unwilling to take part in the auction process to get hold of a captive mine in line with the provisions of the new Act, there are two ways now to meet its raw material needs. One is a possibility of a joint venture between Posco and state-owned Odisha Mining Corporation

(OMC) for operation of an iron ore mine to be reserved for the state public sector undertaking. The second is a pact between Posco and OMC for supply of raw material to the company from one of the mines owned by the latter. At the Delhi meeting, the Centre asked the Odisha government and Posco to carry forward bilateral talks on the options, while making clear there would be no exception for Posco on allotment of a captive mine. The earlier proposal hinged on establishment of the project based on allotment of a captive mine. With that possibility vanishing, the company has to decide on what arrangement it wants to enter with OMC to ensure raw material security if it wants to pursue the Odisha project, sources said.

Indian Welding – May Trip Economic Growth Targets

Estimates Shortage of Welding Professionals at 1.2 Million



Addressing the Press at a seminar held in the city recently Shri R. Srinivasan, President of The Indian Institute of Welding (IIW) claimed "IIW has petitioned the Prime Minister's Office and Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy (Union Minister for Skill Development) about shortfall in availability of skilled welders and gas cutters across the nation. Growth-led increased job openings and replacing the retiring workforce (over 2015-2022) accounts for a shortage of 1.2 million welding professionals including welders, cutters, fitters, equipment operators, and also engineers and inspectors. In fact, today a number of project contractors have imported welding and cutting operators from China, Russia & East European Countries. Our country is in a dire need of overhaul of the current practices and must embrace and adopt new technologies to ensure the 12th

plan growth targets".

Domestic twelfth plan targets of adding 90,000 MW power generation capacities and creating new construction assets of 52 Lakh Crores may all get derailed for India's lack of sufficient skilled workers. The National mission of building 20 kilometres of new highways each day is already falling behind. The 'Make-in-India' campaign has surged

the growth prospects of Manufacturing sector but hue and cry of perennial skilled labour shortage have become vociferous in the Automobile, Construction, Power & Defence sectors. Skilled welding professionals at all levels; pipe and plate welders, supervisors and welding engineers continue to be in short supply. The Union Government's skill development machinery which targets to skill over 500 million Indians by 2022 must include welders also and work at overcoming the severe shortage in employable skills.

The Indian Institute of Welding (IIW) has offered to partner with the Union and State Government machinery to up-skill Indian youth and overcome the shortage of competency-certified welding workforce. New trained welders need to be recruited, and uncertified welders may need to be retrained for manufacturing jobs of the 21st Century. Towards this purpose IIW proposes to hold a

National Welding Seminar & Weld India Expo from 9th to 12th December 2015 at Mumbai.

"This event aims to showcase the latest equipments and demonstrate benchmarked welding skill sets advanced global welding technologies. The Indian welding fraternity will sit together with Government officials and administrators of Engineering Colleges, Indian Institute of Technology and the State run ITI's to update their curriculum, match their syllabus and facilitate training with Industry participation. Students including those with SSC certification may participate in the seminar and examine the possibility of a career in welding. The compensation for welders is very healthy, annual packages starting from 3 Lakh up to as high as Rs.40 Lakh. Many industries want to optimize their capital investments and rely on welders who have the ability to rebuild fairly old and worn equipment. Such skills have become a rarity and are in great demand. If you dedicate yourself to the welding industry, you will never be out of a job" concluded Srinivasan.

This IIW four days event also provides an opportunity to meet researchers, academicians, scientists, metallurgists, practicing engineers, welding-consumable and equipment manufacturers and applicators of welding & cutting. Above 35 international exhibitors will showcase cutting-edge welding technology with advances in welding robotics and process automation.