

Tata Metaliks withdraws its steel project from Karnataka



Tata Metaliks has informed the Karnataka government that it cannot implement its INR 15,000 crore (USD 2.3 bln) three mln tons per annum integrated steel plant at Haveri because of non-availability of mines and iron ore.

“The company has informed the State government that the project cannot be implemented and has requested for refund of the amount paid for allotment of land, RV Deshpande, Minister for Large and Medium Industries told the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

The Minister replying to a question by MLA from Haveri, Basavaraj Nilappa Shivannavar, on the status of Tata Metaliks project said the Supreme Court’s decision to allot mines only

through auction and priority be given to state-owned enterprises in allotment of mines.

This is the reason given by the Minister for non-allotment of iron ore mines to the company. Based on these developments, “The company on October 10, 2016, informed the government that the project has become unviable because of non-availability of mines and iron ore, explained Deshpande.

For Tata Metaliks, the Karnataka government had acquired 2,500 acres at various villages of Haveritaluk and the integrated steel plant was approved by the State High Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC).

Deshpande said after SHLCC clearance, the State government went about acquiring land through KIADB.

About 1,658 acres in Boodugatti and Agadi villages; and 608 acres in Devagiri and DevagiriYallapura villages totaling 2,266 acres were notified for acquisition.

Shivannavar requested the State government to take a suitable decision early and compensate the farmers who are waiting for nearly seven years.

“The decision to return the land will be taken after due examination by the government based on request of the company. We will again go to the SHLCC to take a suitable decision,” said Deshpande.

Govt. approves plans to construct Steel Silos



The Indian government has approved plans to construct steel silos with 10 million tons capacity by 2020 in public private partnership mode for storing food grains. The Food Corporation of India has awarded contracts for creation of 1.6 million tons silos and state governments have completed / awarded contracts for 2.15 million tons silos.

Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs C R Chaudhary said that “Government has approved an action plan of FCI for construction of steel silos of capacity 10 million tons by FCI as well as state governments in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in a phase-wise manner by the end of year 2019-20.”

The FCI, which is a nodal agency for procurement and distribution of food grains, handles about 60 million tons of wheat and rice annually. The minister said that “The silos are being constructed through private sector participation in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. FCI will be benefited as it will not incur any capital investment for any of the projects.”

He added that the responsibility of designing, building, financing and operating the silos will be of private parties.

Chaudhary said silos are a safer and modern means of storage, and food grains can be stored for a longer period, with reduced losses and less handling and labour costs.