

JSW's Rs 50,000-cr mega steel plant in Odisha gets nod



Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel got the go ahead to set up its 10 million tonne steel project in the state at Paradip at a cost of Rs 50,000 crore. The steel project when fully operational promises to create around 30,000 jobs.

Another project by JSW Steel a slurry pipeline to be built at a cost of Rs 3,700 crore from Joda to Paradip for transporting 30 million tonne of iron ore per annum was also approved by the High-Level Clearance

Authority (HLCA). The HLCA chaired by the chief minister is the highest body to clear investment proposals.

The HLCA cleared 10 projects in all with investment totalling to Rs 1.10 lakh crore & potential to generate 46,054 jobs.

“JSW Steel has asked for 4,500 acres of land for their steel plant. But, it has not been decided if the

project would come up at the Posco site. The steel plant is expected to be commissioned in four years”, said Odisha's Chief Secretary Aditya Padhee.

Asked if JSW Steel had submitted a proposal for a commercial port, he said, the company has an intent for a captive port but it has not come to the HLCA.

Apart from JSW Steel, the HLCA approved a 3,200 Mw coal-fired power

station proposed by NLC Ltd (Neyveli Lignite Corporation) at Jharsuguda. NLC has committed an investment of Rs 23,569 crore on this project.

Two projects by National Aluminium Company (Nalco) with a combined investment of over Rs 7,100 crore were okayed by the authority. Nalco has lined up Rs 10,000 crore investment to expand the capacity of its aluminium smelter at Angul from 0.46 to 0.96 million tonne per annum (mtpa). Nalco is also going for ramp up of its alumina refinery at Damanjodi by adding an additional stream of one mtpa which entails an investment of Rs 4,357.20 crore.

In the steel sector, the HLCA okayed proposals by Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd (BPSL) and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). NMDC is investing Rs 1,810 crore on a pellet plant of two mtpa capacity at Dhamra. BPSL has proposed to invest Rs 4,252.40 crore on a similar facility of 5.5 mtpa at Jharsuguda.

RINL draws Rs. 4000 crore plans for capacity expansion

The public sector steel major Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL) is overhauling its existing facilities to add one million tonne to its present capacity of 6.3 million tonnes, taking it to 7.3 million tonnes.

Certain other works are also being taken up as a part of the project and the total project cost is put at Rs. 9,440 crore, with Rs. 4,000 crore for the capacity expansion and the rest for other works. It will take five years to complete all the projects, according to the RINL officials.

A public hearing was conducted on the plant premises recently by the AP Pollution Control Board, and there was no opposition to the project from any quarters.

However, Narasinga Rao, CPM leader, and several others pointed out that in executing the expansion works and other works public sector companies should be

preferred and locals should be given more jobs. All attempts to encourage the private sector at the expense of the RINL should be fought, Narasinga Rao added.

Several speakers also pointed out that even regular job were being outsourced to contract labour in the steel plant and the trend should be curbed.

Many of the speakers said captive iron ore mines should be allocated to RINL to bring down the cost of production and make its products competitive. In the present difficult market conditions, the RINL was facing difficulties because of the lack of captive mines and it had incurred more than Rs.

2,000 crore losses during the past two years.

Earlier, GV Rao, a RINL spokesperson, explained the features of the proposed projects and how the steel plant had spent Rs. 2,318 crore so far on pollution control and mitigation measures and how Rs. 558 crore will be spent for the same purpose.

Shyam Sundar of Bhagwati Labs, a Hyderabad-based company, which



conducted the environment impact assessment study, said pollution levels will further come down in the plant after the completion of the projects.