

Third unit of RattanIndia plant tested for commercial ops

AMRAVATI: When the nation has been experiencing acute power shortage, there is rejoicing news for the energy sector here. RattanIndia Power Limited, a 1350MW thermal power project situated at Nandgaonpeth Five Star MIDC here, successfully tested its third 270MW power generation unit for commercial operations on Monday night.

"We have successfully tested our third unit for commercial operations last night. We have reported this to MSEDCL and now awaiting COD (Commercial Operations Date) certificate from it and Central Electricity Authority," VC Vishwakarma, executive director, RattanIndia Power Limited, said while talking exclusively to TOI.

"The COD certificate is only a matter of formality now. What is of more importance and a cause for rejoicing is the fact that our third unit is ready for generation," he said.

RattanIndia Power Limited, previously known as Indiabulls Power Limited, has now three units of 270MW capacity each ready for commercial operations and hopes to get COD for its remaining two units by this March end." We expect COD for our fourth and fifth unit by March 31. We are working hard in that direction," said Vishwakarma, who has been camping at the plant site near Dawargaon on Morshi road for almost a year to expedite the project work.

"We are very keen to commercially operate our plant to its full capacity from March. Our chairman, Rajiv Rattan, is striving hard. He wants to make the plant one of the best in the country. We are here to realize his dream," said Vishwakarma.

However, the way to power generation at full capacity is not smooth for RattanIndia Power Limited. Besieged with legal and local problems, the plant has not been able to run its first two COD certified units to their full capacity of 270MW power generation. Absence of rail line for direct supply of coal at plant site, complaints regarding health hazards due to transportation of coal from the plant's depot at Walgaon to its site by road, legal litigation over laying of its own transmission lines are some of the hurdles which, according to Vishwakarma, are causing the delay.

"We are presently not in a position to run our two units simultaneously. We need 4,000 tonnes of coal every day to operate one unit. We have to fetch it by road from our depot at Walgaon. People there complain of health hazards while traffic jams, accident risks, toll taxes make this exercise cumbersome as well as time consuming. The work of laying rail line

is under progress and is expected to be over by March. Only then will we be able to run the plant at its full capacity," Vishwakarma said.

RattanIndia Power Limited has a tie-up with MSEDCL for selling its power. "Power generated here is meant for the progress of Maharashtra as well as Vidarbha. So we expect the cooperation of all. If we grow, the people of this region will grow, the state will grow and in turn, the nation will grow," said Vishwakarma, urging people not to put spokes in the plant's plans to produce power for progress.

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