

RPG to set up thermal power plant in Bihar

Our Bureau
KOLKATA

THE Kolkata-based Rs 13,500 crore RPG Group has decided to set up a 1,000-2,000 mw thermal power plant in Bihar at an investment of about Rs 9,000 crore. To this effect, the group has recently floated a 100% subsidiary — Nalanda Power Company which, on Thursday, signed an memorandum of understanding with the Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB).

Confirming the development, CESC managing director S Banerjee said: "The MoU was the first step in the venture. Currently, we are looking at few locations in Bihar, including one at Kahelgaon that is some 60 km from Bhagalpur. The exact capacity of the power plant will be based on availability of land, coal and water. While a 2,000 mw plant will require about 800-1,000 acres, the actual size will depend on coal and water availability. We will look for coal blocks as well as linkage from Coal India."

Incidentally, state-owned NTPC has also set up a power plant in Kahelgaon.

The MoU was signed by BSEB member RK Sharma and Nalanda Power Company director Prabir Neogi. CESC, an RPG company, brought thermal power to India when it set up its power station in Kolkata, way back in 1899. At present, it serves more than 2 million consumers in Kolkata.

Following the signing in Patna, Mr Neogi said: "It's a pleasure to have an opportunity in Bihar and we at RPG look forward to serving the state with our expertise in the field of power generation and distribution."

The RPG Group also serves Greater



POWER POINTS

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Noida, near Delhi, through Noida Power Company Ltd. CESC, at present, has a generation capacity of about 1,000 mw with three generating stations among India's top 10 power stations. The third unit at Badga, Badga (2,100 mw) near Noida, is under construction and will be ready for commissioning by middle of 2009.