

Stone Of 1,980 MW Talwandi Sabo Power Plant Laid

Punjab CM terms it as thermal revolution of a magnitude unprecedented in the history of the entire country

FW BUREAU
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In the post-Independence Punjab's biggest one-time initiative in the thermal power sector, state Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal today laid the foundation stone of the prestigious 1,980 MW thermal power plant at Banawali, near here.

Badal described the event as "a thermal revolution of a magnitude unprecedented in the history not only of the state but of the entire country."

The occasion also turned to be an opportunity for MP and Shiromani Akali Dal President Sukhbir Singh Badal to showcase his political charisma and organisational muscle.

The project, to be built at a basic cost of Rs 9,000 crore and spread across a sprawling 2112 acres of land, would launch the state into the next orbit of super critical power infrastructure in order to boost generation capacity from the 6,200 MW it had inherited in 2007 to a stunning 18,503 MW by 2012.

This would actually boost power availability by a incred-



ible 300%. The Talwandi Sabo plant alone would meet 30% of the current power shortage in the state. It is scheduled to start generation in 2012.

Talking about the details of the Talwandi Sabo project, Sukhbir Singh Badal said, "No other state in the country has so far undertaken such massive and wide-ranging development initiative to boost its power generation by 300% in such a short span. And we are determined to put the requisite infrastructure on the ground well before we go back to the people for a mandate in 2012."

The thermal plant is expected to be the harbinger of a veritable "power revolution" in Punjab as it marks the beginning of a major power generation thrust to make Punjab self-reliant on the energy front.

Giving details of the thermal power plant, PSEB Member (Finance & Accounts) Anurag Aggarwal who is also the CMD of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd, stated that the plant would be hitherto the biggest thermal power plant in the state.

The plant, which is being constructed by Sterlite Energy Limited of Vedanta Group on Build, Own, Operate (BOO) basis, would entail an investment of over Rs. 9000 crore.

The Vedanta Group is an international \$ 8.2 billion conglomerate having business interests in aluminum, zinc, power and other areas and is currently operating power plants with installed capacity of 1,383 MW in India with another 2,400 MW plant under construction in Orissa.

Using the most contemporary technology, the Talwandi Sabo Plant would be energy-efficient utilising 15% less coal and eco-friendly by adhering to the strict pollution norms for the industry. Its iconic 275-metre tall chimney would be highest in the state. He stated

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that the bid document provides for a 48-month time period for commissioning of the plant and the PSEB has incorporated very attractive incentive clauses to secure its early completion.

It is, therefore, hoped that the first 660 MW unit of the plant would be commissioned by December 2011 and the other two units of 660 MW each by mid-2012, he added.