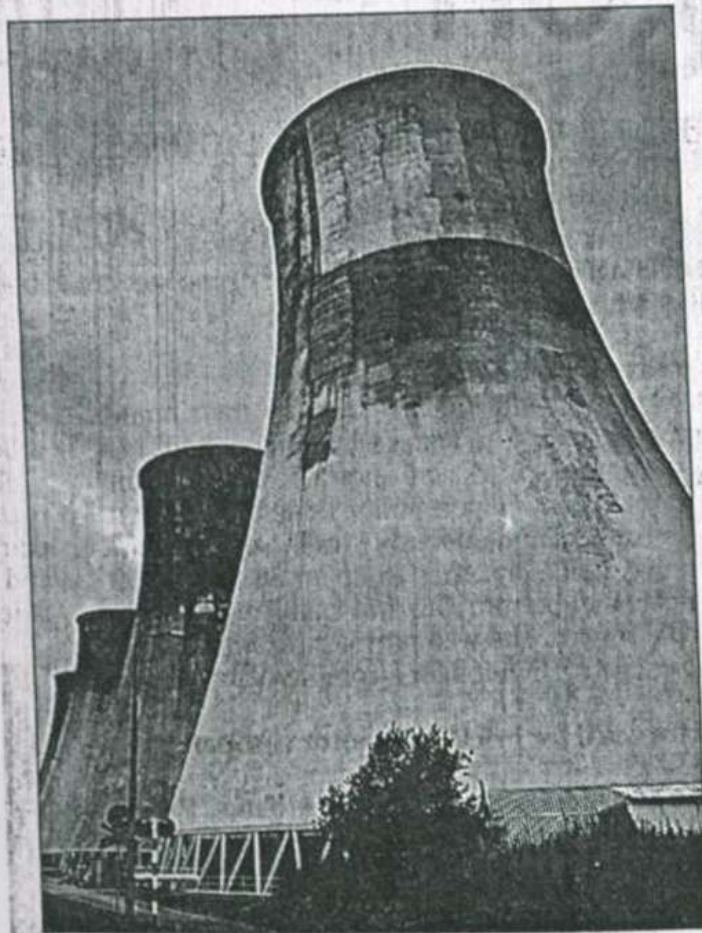


Badal to lay foundation stone of Talwandi Sabo power plant today

1,980 MW Project To Be Developed On BOO Basis By Sterlite Energy

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THE work on the largest coal-based thermal power plant in Punjab—the proposed 1,980 mw Talwandi Sabo Thermal Power Plant will begin tomorrow when chief minister Parkash Singh Badal lays the foundation stone in Banawala village of Mansa district.

The power plant will be constructed by Sterlite Energy on build-own-operate (BOO) basis. The proposed thermal power plant with 3 units x 660 mw will be the largest thermal plant in Punjab and will boast of an investment of Rs 9,000-10,000 crore.

It will be constructed in three phases with the first phase taking 48 months and the rest two phases taking four months each. The project located around 45 km from Bathinda to be put up on 2,113 acres is expected to be commissioned by April 2013 and is likely to be funded through internal accruals. When commissioned, the entire power from the project will be procured by the PSEB. Water for the project will be obtained for supply from Bheni Canal (sub-branch of Kotla canal branch) which is at a distance of 20 km.

A spokesman of the company told ET here today that the coal linkage for the project has been done from Mahanadi, Coal Limited (MCL). PSEB would develop 400 kv ring for connectivity to central sector network for power evacuation.

To sustain the strong recent economic growth in India, the ministry of power of the government of India has set an ambitious target of providing 'Power for All,' with a target of achieving an installed capacity of 2,12,000 MW by 2012 by adding over 100,000 MW of generation capacity.

Company sources said that to take advantage of the growth and development in India's electricity sector, Vedanta Resources Group, which owns Sterite Energy has entered the commercial power generation business. Vedanta is investing nearly \$1,900 million to build a 2,400 MW thermal coal-based power facility (comprising four units of 600 MW each) in Jharsuguda in Orissa also. The project is expected to be progressively commissioned from December 2009.