

Welspun mulls port, power projects in AP

1,320mw coal-fired plant to come up on the coast, cost ₹7,500 cr

K V Ramana • HYDERABAD

Welspun Energy plans to set up one of its largest thermal power capacities in Andhra Pradesh.

The project is expected to come up with an outlay of ₹7,500 crore and a capacity to generate about 1,320 mw in the initial phase.

The energy arm of Welspun Group, whose interests include textiles, steel pipes, retail and infrastructure, plans to set up the project on Andhra Pradesh coast, state government sources said.

"The project would be based on environment friendly super critical tech-



nology, requiring about 1,000 acres. The project would depend purely on sea water and would avoid any burden on fresh water sources of the state," said a source.

Several thermal power

projects planned in Andhra Pradesh earlier had hit road-blocks in terms of environment clearances as most of them were planned to come up in wetland or depended on water sources otherwise meant for irrigation.

"The project is still being finalised and we don't see much of a problem in terms of environment clearances this time since it would come up on the coast and not interfere much with agriculture or irrigation," said the source.

The project would be port-based and the estimated requirement of coal is about 6.4 million tonne per annum.

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"There would be a mix of imported and domestic coal. Efforts are on to secure an arrangement from Coal India," said the source.

According to the proposal submitted to the government, the project would have two units of 660 mw each and would be built simultaneously in a single phase.

Welspun would also construct a multipurpose port in addition to the port that would help in importing the coal and other capital goods.

"The port proposal is still at a nascent stage and the cost of the port project would be worked out later," the official said.

For the record, Welspun has already tested the waters in Andhra Pradesh by setting up a 5 mw solar power project at Pulivendula in Andhra Pradesh.

According to the officials, the company has already signed an initial memorandum of understanding and the state government is working on the procedure for allotting land and other required incentives for the company to take the project forward.