

## **Adani's Godda Thermal Power Project progressing on firm footing according to the law of the land**

- Required approvals received from Government agencies
- Land acquisition done strictly as per Government rules and Act
- Environmental clearance received after strict due diligence.
- Mass support from the local people regarding the construction of the plant.
- Image and face of Godda will get transformed with active Government support

*The Adani Group is moving forward within the legal purview towards setting up the thermal power plant at Godda. All the necessary formalities for land acquisition as well as project are being fulfilled as per the Governmental regulations. We are receiving overwhelming support from local people, police administration and the Government for the project.*

### **Spokesman, Adani Power (Jharkhand) Limited**

Some recent anti-developmental reports are surfacing, especially in the social media, which are targeting Adani's Godda project. Obviously, instigated by vested interest, such reports lack substance, veracity and appear highly prejudiced against the Company.

The reports can at best be called prejudicial and malicious since they start with a wrong premise and purport – their main objective being to thwart and undermine the attempt to put Godda on the developmental map. The reports have stooped as low to make it appear as if Adani group is colluding with the local Government to usurp the land in Godda and damage the future of its inhabitants. It almost stops short of accusing the Company of victimizing the poor Godda lot and making the Government dance to its tune in exploiting the region.

Nothing could be farther from truth.

In simple words, this news is one-sided and bereft of facts. The social media report doing rounds seethes with contempt and tries to belittle and jeopardize an honest developmental effort. On the basis of news coming from internet, social media and other sources, social media has been trying to keep the gossip mills churning with this news and also inviting newspapers to join the incriminating bandwagon.

Another report was brought up, a few days back, in the social media by an Australian based international organization (NGO) with the sole purpose of stopping, spoiling and damaging the largest coal project of Australia (Carmichael Coal Project). Probably that is the reason the report emphasizes only on the project drawbacks. Such media groups have now focused on and targeted the Godda project and their only objective, it seems, is to harm the Godda project.

First of all, it is necessary to acquaint ourselves with the bare facts about Godda-based proposed power plant. Main points of the project are as under -

1. Firstly, the origin of this project is based on an understanding between the Government of India and Bangladesh. After the efforts and understanding between the then Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and later Shri Narendra Modi, with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Adani took initiative to embark on a project to set up 2 x 800 Megawatt power plant for exporting electricity to Bangladesh, which is a power starved nation. The Godda district in Santhal Pargana, Jharkhand was selected because of its proximity to Bangladesh border. Godda incidentally has not been able to witness any developmental activity till date and will now have the state-of-the-art power plant.
2. This will be an ultra super-critical thermal power plant, which will produce electricity more efficiently, i.e higher electricity output using less quantum of coal. Built-up to world standards, it will be one of the most sophisticated plants in the world.
3. This power plant will be equipped with the latest technology in the world.
4. It will be established with world-class infrastructure.
5. Under CSR initiatives the Group is stepping up their community welfare work in the vicinity of the plant on a war-footing level.
6. As part of discharging its social obligations, the Group has set up 120 schools in Godda district. These steps are directly fulfilling the goal of Government's educational, Skill development and Make in India programmes.
7. This power project will be the country's showcase from environmental and eco-friendly perspective. Highly modern and state-of-the-art environment management gadgets will be installed. Nearly Rs. 2220 Crores will be spent by Adani only on environmental protection gadgets. There will be no damage to the forest in this particular project. Even the land loser Raiyats will receive highest compensation, as determined by the Government, which has hitherto not been given to any Raiyat in Jharkhand, till date.

Adani Group's credentials in the Power scenario stands unmatched in the private sector in the country. It generates approx. 11,000 Megawatt of electricity. For the Godda Project it is investing nearly Rs. 15,000 Crores to develop the 1600 Megawatt Ultra- Super Critical thermal power plant in Jharkhand. This investment is undeniably going to add to the progress of this State. Maybe for this reason some anti-development agencies and vested intents are opposed to the establishment of this modern plant in Godda. The setting up of this plant will lead to the following developments in this State :

**Employment** - There would be job creation in the form of direct and indirect employment on a large scale. Thousands of people would benefit from the move. The State will no doubt be benefited by the multiplier and accelerator impact of investment in the State.

**Infrastructure** - With the establishment of this power plant major developments will follow. This would lead the way to creation of proper infrastructure in terms of roads and railways, which would reduce the commuting and transportation time and help the small industries grow, which would also open up the growth opportunities in the district.

**Health and Education** - Modern hospitals would come up and educational institutions would proliferate as per the needs of the people.

**Skill Development And Training** - Hands on training for students and the youth would help them enhance their abilities and learn the market scenario. This would help them excel in their field, technical education, and help in skill-India initiative of the Government.

**Developing the market** - Once the project starts, on account of expanding road and rail routes, there will be a concomitant increase in the demand for goods and services, which will directly and indirectly help in developing a large market.

**Improvements in Banking and Financial Sectors** - With the introduction of the project, the possibility of a large number of government and private banks coming in will increase, and thereby, help in meeting the burgeoning financial requirements of the district.

**Dissemination of Social Responsibilities** - Once the project starts, efforts would be made to run more and better Corporate Social Responsibility programmes by the company. On top of that, large scale investments will also be made by the company to boost the development of the socio-economic environment.

**Promoting small industries** - The proposed plant by Adani would contribute to the smaller firms and industries as well. This would help industries expand their operations, since the plant would involve the participation of the local people.

**Law & Order** – The power plant will help to improve the law and order of the area.

**Clearances** – The Company has already obtained the following clearances and approvals from the Government till date –

- **Chimney Height** – Approval from AAI received
- **Defence Clearance** - NOC Received
- **Environmental Clearance** – EC received on 31-May-2017

- **Water Allocation (36 MCM)** – Water allocation from River Ganga has been obtained and agreement with Water Resource Department, Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) has been executed on 09-Mar-2018

It is a challenge to achieve industrial development in the Santhal-Pargana area of Jharkhand especially, because the region has remained neglected for a long time and besides a few coal mines, the place has no claim to the existence of any industry. The main challenges for small and large industries in this area include land acquisition, financial help and individual entrepreneurship. There is still a lot of work to be done in the area of roads and infrastructure. Hence, there is great need to give attention to these areas. The present Government is quite willing and active to create a change in Santhal-Pargana area. The recently concluded 4<sup>th</sup> ground-breaking ceremony of Momentum Jharkhand, held at Deoghar, is a clear indication of this. The Godda project will certainly prove to be a milestone in the growth history of Santhal Pargana.