
Karnataka Power to add 6,000 MW of power in 5 years

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Karnataka Power Corporation Limited the state owned power generator has set an ambitious target of becoming an energy surplus state with the addition of about 6,000 MW over the next five years.

A top official said that it is expanding the installed capacity to 12,000 MW by 2013 from 6,000 MW presently through various sources of energy.

Mr S M Jaamdar MD of KPCL said that “With demand exceeding supply, we have been facing a crunch in meeting the growing requirement for power across the state from utilities and end users.”

He added that during the current financial year, KPCL is planning to commission the eighth unit of 250 MW at Raichur Thermal Power Station. The total capital expenditure for 2009-10 is pegged at INR 1,800 crore about 45% more than last year.

Being more dependent on hydel generation KPCL is scouting for partners to set up a 2100 MW gas-based thermal power plant at Tadadi in the coastal district of Uttara Kannada, about 550 km from here. The mega project is estimated to cost about INR 7,500 crore.

About 60% of the state’s energy is generated from hydel sources, 30% from thermal coal and the balance 10 per cent from wind, solar and atomic power plant at Kaiga in Uttara Kannada district. Captive units and independent private producers chip in to meet the shortage.

Mr Jaamdar said that a global tender for gas supply drew a good response, with 16 national and international firms showing interest in setting up a dedicated LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminal for the Tadadi project.

Firstly, to become self-sufficient, KPCL is setting up a 1200 Mw thermal power plant in Chattisgarh at an estimated cost of INR 6,000 crore with coal from the state-run South Eastern Coalfields, which has mines in the northern region of the state. The project is expected to be completed in 36 months from the date of commissioning in mid 2010.

(Sourced from Business Standards)

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