

JK Lakshmi aims growth, to invest Rs 1,600 crore

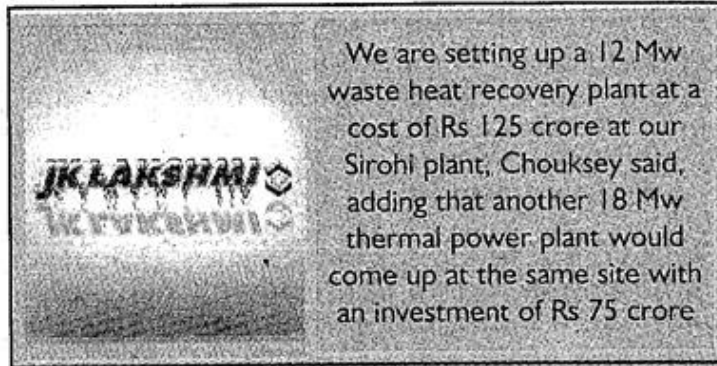
PBD BUREAU/PTI

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JK Lakshmi Cement will invest about Rs 1,600 crore over the next three years on expansion, which includes setting up of a 2.7 million tonnes greenfield manufacturing plant in Chhattisgarh.

"We are expanding our cement capacity. By 2012, our capacity will reach to 8 million tonnes per annum," JK Lakshmi Cement managing director Vinita Singhania told PTI.

Singhania said the 2.7 million tonnes greenfield cement plant in Durg (Chhattisgarh) will be set up at an investment of Rs 1,100-1,200 crore.



At present, JK Lakshmi has a cement plant in Sirohi (Rajasthan) and a grinding unit near Ahmedabad with a total annual capacity of 4.7 million tonnes. The company sells its cement in northern and western region of the country.

Elaborating more on expansion, company's Whole-time director Shailendra Chouksey said the

company is scouting for 30 acres of land in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to set up a 5.5 lakh tonnes cement grinding unit.

"The investment to set up the grinding unit will be Rs 80 crore," he said, adding that the unit is expected to become operation by March 2011 taking the company's annual capacity to 5.2 million

tonnes. Chouksey said the Durg cement plant will be operational by October 2012. "We have bought about 50 per cent of the total 600 acre land required for setting up this plant." Besides cement, JK Lakshmi is putting in Rs 200 crore to expand its captive power generation capacity. "We are setting up a 12 Mw waste heat recovery plant at a cost of Rs 125 crore at our Sirohi plant," Chouksey said, adding that another 18 Mw thermal power plant would come up at the same site with an investment of Rs 75 crore. Post-expansion, the company's captive power generation capacity will reach to 66 Mw from the current 36 Mw.