

500MW coal power plant from India

By Don Asoka Wijewardena

The second coal-fired electricity generation plant with the assistance of the Indian government will be constructed in Nilavali, Trincomalee shortly. The power plant will add 500 MW to the national grid when completed. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Indian NTPC and the Sri Lankan government, Power Ministry sources revealed.

Power and Energy Minister W.D.J.Seneviratne told The Island Financial Review that the construction of the plant would cost around US \$ 250 million and would be completed in 2012. It was a magnanimous gesture by the Indian government to assist the power generation industry in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan government is indebted to the Indian government for taking such a decision to help improve the electricity generation in the country.

He said that Indian Commerce Minister Jairam Ramesh and a delegation of high officials had visited Sri Lanka and had comprehensive discussions with him on the construction work of the project. The Indian NTPC and high officials of the CEB will visit Nilavali and the Indian company is expected to carry out a feasibility study. A new jetty will also be built in Nilavali

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Indian Commerce Minister Jairam Ramesh and a high level delegation held talks with Power and Energy Minister W.D.J.Seneviratne and Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion Minister Dr.Sarath Amunugama at hotel Taj Samudra recently.

to facilitate the construction work of the project. The government has decided to develop Trincomalee as a commercial hub.

Referring to the potential employment opportunities following the second power plant, Minister Seneviratne outlined that around 4,000 unemployed young men and women in the area will be able to secure direct and indirect jobs at the construction site. In addition to the construction the government will also develop the required infrastructure in the area and the infrastructure development programme would be under direct supervision of the Power and Energy Ministry.

Indian Commerce Minister Jairam

Ramesh participating in the conference with Minister Seneviratne pointed out that the energy supply of Sri Lanka would be revamped on long-term Indo-Lanka Friendship. The Indo-Lanka Inter-Transmission Expansion programme will also commence soon. India is generating around 5,000 MW of electricity through alternative sources of energy such as solar power and wind power and asked the Sri Lankan government to commence such projects to generate electricity.

The Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Aloka Prasad said that the Indian government had also decided to help the CEB to provide electricity to remote areas in the Eastern province.