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PROJECT monitor

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Bajaj Electricals grows in rural electrification

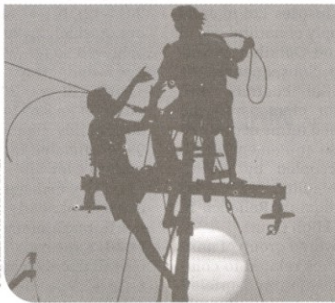
VENUGOPAL PILLAI

MUMBAI-HEADQUARTERED Bajaj Electricals Ltd has furthered its presence in the village electrification business with new orders from NTPC Electricity Supply Company Ltd under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.

NESCL has placed two orders worth Rs 276 crore for village electrification in West Bengal and Orissa. The first order, worth Rs 204 crore, will cover 1,898 villages in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, bringing electricity connections to 4.5 lakh below-poverty line (BPL) homes. In Orissa, the Rs 72-crore contract will electrify 71,000 BPL homes spread over 1,200 villages in Sambalpur district.

Discussing the development, Lalit Mehta, Executive President, Bajaj Electricals, who also heads the Engineering & Projects SBU, said that preliminary works on the new contracts had begun and a kickoff meeting with vendors was scheduled shortly. "Both the orders have an 18-month completion period," he added.

Mehta also said that by December this year, BEL would complete its first rural electrification order. Placed by NESCL, the order involves electrification of 40,000 homes in Champa district of Chhattisgarh. Excluding this order (which is on the verge of completion), Bajaj Electricals' total order book position in the rural electrification currently stands at over Rs 350



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crore, he noted. Discussing other ongoing orders, Mehta said that BEL was execut-

ing two orders for NHPC Ltd for village electrification in Chhattisgarh. The first is a Rs 56-crore mandate to providing electricity connections to 72,000 homes in Raipur district while the other is a Rs 30-crore order to electrify 12,000 homes in Mahasamund district.

Launched in April 2005, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana is a Centrally-sponsored nationwide village electrification programme that aims to provide electricity connections to 1 lakh non-electrified villages providing electricity connections to 2.34 crore rural households by 2009. Estimated to cost Rs 51,000 crore, the scheme will provide free electricity connections to all BPL families in rural India.

TNPL contract for Metso

PM NEWS BUREAU

FINLAND-BASED Metso Corporation has won a €14 million (Rs 92 crore) order to supply a new cooking plant and brown stock washing equipment for Tamil Nadu Newspaper & Papers Ltd. The machines, which will be part of a bagasse-based paper mill, will be operational by early 2010, a Metso statement said.

Metso's scope of delivery comprises cooking, screening, washing based on press

technology, and an oxygen de-lignification stage. The order also includes basic engineering, field instruments as well as erection and startup supervision services.

The new brown stock process will have a daily design capacity of 600 odt (oven dry tonnes) and will supply pulp to the bleaching process newly supplied and taken into operation by Metso. The entire fibre line, including the brown stock and bleaching processes, will be the world's largest single line for bagasse, the statement added.