

VAGHELA PROMISES TEXTILE PARK IN VID



Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh addressing the inaugural ceremony of second plant of Indo Rama while (from left) Executive Director Vishal Lohia, Animal Husbandry Minister Anees Ahmad, Board Member K N Memani, Union Minister for Textiles Shankarsinh Vaghela and Chairman of Indo Rama Synthetics (India) Limited O P Lohia look on.

■ **Business Bureau**
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UNION Minister for Textiles, Shankarsinh Vaghela, has promised to set up textile park in Vidarbha.

He was speaking on Saturday,

after Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh inaugurated the second plant of the synthetics major Indo Rama at the Butibori industrial complex.

Vaghela said, his ministry, which has already got an approval to set up 30 textile parks across

the country, had sought permission for 50 more. "As soon as the Planning Commission gives a green signal, the first one out of these parks will be set up in Vidarbha," he promised.

Upbeat over the announcement

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Vaghela promises...

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of Vaghela, Vilasrao, urged noted industrialist and Chairman of Indo Rama Synthetics (India) Limited, O P Lohia to help out in setting up the project.

Vilasrao hoped that Indo Rama's initiative in setting up the new plant will spur more investment in the region. "Indo Rama is one company which came to Vidarbha when this region had no major investment in manufacturing. It has successfully stood the test of time and in spite of facing several law and order problems, emerged as a powerful player in manufacturing," he said.

Vaghela said that he was also planning to get the Mumbai-based Finlay Mills Limited to Vidarbha. Vaghela said that the ministry had been proactive in getting the textile sector out of the red.

"The UPA Government's schemes for the textile sector helped in generating employment for approximately 25 lakh people in a short span of three years," he informed. The schemes have been met with huge successes, he said. Vaghela however had a word of caution on over-deployment of technology. Criticising it as a job killer he said that a robot could perform the task of ten people and questioned why the process could not be reversed for better precision and efficiency.

In his address, O P Lohia said that with the commissioning of the new plant, IRSL's production capacity had doubled on from 3 lakh tonnes to 6 lakh tonnes a year of fibre and yarn. "With this we have become one of the world's largest single-location unit and will be supplying 25 per cent of the country's polyester requirement," said Lohia. He further said that with the new plant in place and completely operational, the company's investment in the site had reached Rs 3,000 crore.

Apart from the new plant, Lohia said that the company on Saturday had another reason to rejoice. "From today we have started supplying surplus electricity of 22 MW to Tata Power through the state grid, which will help in easing the power crunch in the state to some extent," he said and added that in the next one year he would look forward to selling power up to 40 to 50 MW. The power was being sold at Rs 6 per unit, he informed.

Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Vilas Muttemwar, who was the guest of honour of the function also spoke on the occasion. Director of Indian Oil Corporation R K Bansal, CMD of Mitsubishi Kazumi Yoshimura, CMD of National Textile Corporation Ramachandran Pillai also spoke. The vote of thanks was delivered by Board Member K N Memani. Others prominently present were IRSL Executive Director Vishal Lohia, PWD Minister of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh, Animal Husbandry Minister Anees Ahmad, MLA Ramesh Bang, former State Minister Ranjit Deshmukh and several other company officials.