

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Steel**

11-January-2020 17:08 IST

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches PURVODAYA in steel sector; Says mission PURVODAYA will script rise of Eastern India by accelerated development of steel sector

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan today launched PURVODAYA: Accelerated development of eastern India through integrated steel hub in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Shri Pradhan speaking on the occasion said “Whether it is our freedom movement or social reform, eastern India has provided leadership to the nation. Eastern India is a land of infinite opportunities. Despite being endowed with natural resources, this region has lagged behind in socio-economic development as compared to some other parts of the country. Today, we start Purvodaya in steel sector, a new chapter which will script the rise of eastern India by accelerated development of steel sector through an integrated steel hub.”



Speaking about Government’s efforts to develop eastern India, he said, “Our Government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given unprecedented focus to the development of eastern India. About half of aspirational districts are in this region which is becoming hotspots of socio-economic development. Our Government has come up with a Rs. 102 lakh crore worth of National Infrastructure Pipeline. Whether it is pipelines, inland waterways, shipping, air or road, our Government is building infrastructure at an unprecedented pace. Eastern India holds special focus in our infrastructure development efforts.”

About technology, Shri Pradhan said, “21st century is going to be the age of knowledge and technology. New technologies are reshaping the economy and society. Industry 4.0 driven by digitisation holds immense promise. Embrace of Industry 4.0 by manufacturing in steel sector will ensure eastern India benefits from the wave of Industrial Revolution 4.0.”

Stressing upon the need of improving business climate, he said, “Ease of Doing Business is not mere slogan for our Government. From setting up companies to regulatory clearances, taxation etc., our Government has worked on every aspect of improving the Ease of doing Business. Recently, our Government came up with perhaps the biggest ever reform in

the coal sector. More revenue, more production and logistic development in the coal sector will further fuel the growth of Eastern India.”

Purvodaya in steel sector is aimed at driving accelerated development of Eastern India through establishment of integrated steel hub. Eastern states of India (Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal) and Northern part of Andhra Pradesh collectively hold ~80% of the country’s iron ore, ~100% of coking coal and significant portion of chromite, bauxite and dolomite reserves. There is presence of major ports such as Paradip, Haldia, Vizag, Kolkata etc., with >30% of India’s major port capacity. In India’s march towards a \$5 trillion economy, the 5 Eastern states can play a major role where steel sector can become the catalyst. This Eastern belt has the potential to add more than 75% of the country’s incremental steel capacity envisioned by the National Steel Policy. It is expected that out of the 300 MT capacity by 2030-31, over 200 MT can come from this region alone, driven by Industry 4.0.

The proposed Integrated Steel Hub, encompassing Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Northern Andhra Pradesh, would serve as a torchbearer for socio-economic growth of Eastern India. The objective of this hub would be to enable swift capacity addition and improve overall competitiveness of steel producers both in terms of cost and quality. The Integrated Steel Hub would focus on 3 key elements:

1. Capacity addition through easing the setup of Greenfield steel plants
2. Development of steel clusters near integrated steel plants as well as demand centres.
3. Transformation of logistics and utilities infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in the East

Growth of steel industry through such a hub would lead to significant employment opportunities across the entire value chain and will play a significant role in overall socio-economic growth of Eastern India, thus reducing the disparity between the East and other regions of the country.

Smt. Rasika Chaube, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Ms. Vandana Yadav, Secretary, Industries, Govt. of West Bengal, Shri Hemanth Sharma, Secretary, Industries, Govt. of Odisha, Shri Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, Indian Oil, Shri Anil Chaudhary, Chairman, SAIL, Shri Anil Kumar Jha, Chairman, Coal India, Shri Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII, Shri S.K. Behera, MD, RSB Ltd. also addressed the audience.

YB/TFK
