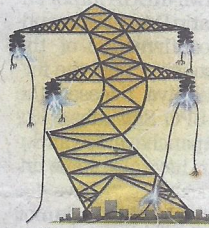


State to invest ₹14,000cr to boost power infrastructure

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ranchi: The state energy department plans to invest Rs14,000 crore for the overhaul of its transmission infrastructure by 2019. The department will try to convert its production (JUUNL), transmission (JUSNL) and distribution companies (JBVNL) into commercially viable entities since 38% of the total power produced and purchased in the state is being wasted in AT&C losses.

"We (state) were late in constituting the companies. They are currently running on government support. However, these are ad-hoc measures," principal energy secretary RK Srivastava said at Suchana Bhawan. "If long-term measures are not taken, the companies might have to be privatized in the long run," he



added. The department said it will seek approximately Rs 2,500 crore loan from the World Bank and other funding agencies for the project.

While its proposed Patratu power plant is on the course of overhaul in production capacity (4,000 MW), the department has set focus on setting up new grids, transmission lines and sub-stations (which come under JSNL). The current infrastructure is one-third of required, with as many as 54 new sub-stations required to be

erected. Forest clearance and land acquisition issues pose hurdles to the overhaul plan.

Srivastava said revision of tariffs was the way out for increasing revenue. The state has a current backlog of approximately Rs 5,000 crore, Srivastava said.

The proposed Adani power plant in Godda is on course despite raging protests against land acquisition, the department said. "The stage one MoU is already complete and the stage two MoU will be done very soon," the energy secretary said. The future of the proposed ultra-mega power plant in Tilaiya looks brighter with the Union ministry of power preparing for a fresh bidding sometime in August, the department said. The Tilaiya UMPP was shelved after Reliance Power pulled out of it last year.