

Govt. keen on launching work on LNG terminals, says Naidu

Special Correspondent

VISAKHAPATNAM: The State Government is firm on expediting work on LNG terminals at Kakinada and Visakhapatnam, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Thursday.

After a review with Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan, he said the work on Kakinada project would be launched shortly. The terminal at Kakinada with a capacity of five million tonne will be taken up by GAIL, GDF Suez Shell, GAIL and AP Gas Development Corporation as a joint venture.

Another terminal with a total capacity of 10 million tonne will come up at Gan-gavaram Port in two phases with an investment of Rs.9,000 crore by Petronet LNG Limited.

Mr. Naidu said the government would launch several initiatives for bio-diesel production and generating wealth from waste by recycling making use of green technologies.

"Our endeavour is to make AP a major centre for green energy," he said and elaborated how they were trying to set up several solar energy parks at Anantapur and other areas.

The Chief Minister said they government was keen on starting the proposed Petroleum University shortly. He said the land for the university was being identified.

The university will come in North Coastal Andhra, he added.

He said the government was confident of showcasing

AP as an ideal destination for investments by developing Visakhapatnam as a gateway for South East Asia.

State Ministers Ch. Ayyan-

na Patrudu, Ganta Srinivasa Rao and K. Atchan Naidu, Vizag and Anakapalle MPs K. Haribabu and Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao were present.

Royalty: Minister non-committal

VISAKHAPATNAM: The dream of AP to get huge royalty from offshore exploration of oil and gas reserves from Krishna-Godavari basin may not materialise with Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday saying they would follow law of the land. After a three-hour long review meeting with the Chief Minister, he said that they were committed to making AP one of the leading hubs in energy sector. Earlier, Mr. Naidu made a strong plea for royalty on the lines of coal blocks to the States from where the reserves were explored. He also cited the recommendation of the Parliamentary panel on Petroleum and Natural Gas to give royalty to States. Praising Mr. Naidu's for his pro-active initiatives to rebuild AP, Mr. Pradhan, who was here to review arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the city to dedicate India's first underground rock cavern for storage of crude, said the Centre would prepare a roadmap to attract investments in the petroleum sector in a big way. He also hailed the

Chief Minister's initiative to encourage green energy as per call given by Mr. Modi. Stating that AP would be developed as a major manufacturing hub for petrochemical industries, he said instead of a 15-million tonne Greenfield refinery, HPCL as an anchor tenant would set up a mega petrochemical complex in the proposed PCPIR between Visakhapatnam and Kakinada.

Mr. Pradhan promised to visit AP once in six months to review the progress of implementing a detailed action plan for oil and gas sector.

"We need detailed planning and execution. I am confident AP will soon emerge as an international energy hub," he remarked.

Earlier, Mr. Naidu sought sanction of 45 lakh LPG connections to ensure 100 per cent supply of gas to BPL families, Centre's support for starting Petroleum University in North Andhra as promised in AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, popularising eco-friendly CNG in the nook and corners of the State and substantial allocation of CSR funds by oil companies.

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