

CIL arm plans solar project

Offices, Quarters To Be Powered By Alternative Energy

Sanjay Ojha | TNN

Ranchi: Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), has plans to use solar energy to light up offices and residential colonies of its parent organization. It will also extend to mining areas later.

CMPDI will start it on a pilot project basis from its headquarters and residential colonies in Ranchi.

Chairman and managing director of CMPDI A K Debnath said recently they have even entered into an agreement with a Gujarat-based public sector undertaking to get technological help and instruments for the work.

“We have noticed that there is good potential to



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harness solar energy to light up our offices and residential colonies. This is because there are many high rise buildings which will be able to absorb sunlight. We can get adequate light to generate electricity for at least 10 months in a year,”

said Debnath.

If solar energy is properly tapped then the company expects that they will be able to save at least 40% of the total electricity bill every month. “We will start installing solar panels on every building’s rooftop and

try to make it reach the rooms,” Debnath said.

Talking about other benefits of the initiative he said since huge solar panels will be installed on rooftops the buildings will be saved from direct sunrays.

“Even during peak summer months, the rooms on the top floor of the buildings will be cool. It will reduce the use of air condition and thus help cut cost,” he said.

Sources in the state-run coal miner’s subsidiary said once the project is successfully tested at its headquarters the organization will ask all the subsidiary companies of CIL to follow it and save on electricity bill.

However, no one was able to quantify the exact amount that will be saved by CIL per month if all offices and mines across the country start using solar energy.