

Work on city's crude oil cavern begins

Stock To Last 14 Days During Emergencies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangalore: The foundation stone laying ceremony for the strategic storage of crude oil project by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) at Kalavar Padavu near here was held on Wednesday.

ISPRL chief manager S Vijayananda, South Korea Engineering Company-Karam Chand Thapar Group (SKEC-KCT) deputy general manager Gopinath, Mangalore Special Economic Zone (MSEZ) chief operating officer A G Pai and other took part in the Bhumi Pooja.

Speaking to press persons on the occasion, S Vijayananda said the central government has decided to set up 5 million metric tones (MMT) strategic crude oil reserves in underground rock caverns at three locations in the country including Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Padur near Udupi.

These strategic reserves would provide a 14-day cover of crude oil for the entire country in case of supply disruption or during war. The proposed storage sites are located near east and west coasts so that they are readily accessible to the refining sector through marine distribution. Mangalore reserve would have the capacity to store 1.5 MMT crude oil, where as the Padur and Vishakhapatnam reserves could store 2.5 MMT and 1.38 MMT crude oil respectively, he said.

The Mangalore project, he said the total project cost was Rs 1,000 crore and the underground civil works worth Rs 403.5 crores have already begun at the site.

The civil works be completed in 36 months. In total 83 acres of land had been acquired for the purpose and the process was going on to acquire additional 18 acres of land. The project was ex-



Gopinath, Deputy General Manager, South Korean Engineering and Construction Company and Karam Chand Thapar group break the ground to mark the foundation stone laying for ISPRL at Kalavaru on Wednesday

pected to be operational by 2012, he said.

The underground rock cavern storage is the storage of crude or other hydrocarbon deep inside the Earth, in large cavities crated in good quality rock strata. A typical crude cavern could have a cross section 20 meters wide by 30 meters high and could be located 50 below the mean sea level. If the local terrain is say 20 meters above the mean sea level the depth of the cavern would be 70 meters below the surface.