

State plans infrastructure for Nayachara units

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AFTER inking a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Centre for its Rs 90,000-crore petroleum, chemical and petrochemical investment region (PCPIR) project, the West Bengal government is gearing up to create infrastructure for downstream units in the pear-shaped Nayachara island (near Haldia) and adjoining areas. For starters, the state government has asked some 2,000-odd plastic processors in West Bengal to set up units in the proposed PCPIR.

Talking to ET, KK Seksaria, past president of the Indian Plastics Federation said: "The West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation

(WBIDC) recently held a meeting with the plastic processors for setting up units at the PCPIR. We have asked for some 200 acres from the state government at the PCPIR for downstream projects."

The state government expects work at the proposed Nayachara chemical hub to start within a year. "We have already initiated the crucial task of getting environmental clearance from the central government. We are also trying to be ready with supportive infrastructure," said a senior WBIDC official.

Plastic processors have also demanded 250 acres in Dhulagarh, Howrah for setting up a plastic park. "We've got two proposals from the plastic processors in the state. We are looking into their proposals," the WBIDC official added.

Justifying the rationale behind setting up plastic processing units in the state, Mr Seksaria said: "In India, per capita plastic consumption is low at around 6 kg per annum compared to a world average of 25 kg."

According to him, "rapid urbanisation" will boost the basic demand of plastic. "Plastic is now being used for housing, automobiles and retail sectors. Nearly every product is packed in plastic packets and the packaging sector is growing fast," Seksaria said.

He expects the plastic industry to add 1.5 million tonnes to its existing capacity in the next six months as primary raw material suppliers like Indian Oil, Haldia Petrochemicals and Reliance Industries are augmenting capacity.

BUILDING BLOCKS



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