

WBIDC doles out affordable loans to spur mid-sized cos

Udit Prasanna Mukherji | TNN

Kolkata: West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) has decided to do its bit to revive the state's industrialisation agenda by granting loans at affordable terms to medium-sized projects to lessen their financial burden.

The corporation is also offering bridge loans for the incentives offered to new projects. Firms, if they wish to, would get upto 60% of the incentives as bridge loans in advance.

"It is not possible for us to finance big projects. But we are trying our best to ensure that medium and small projects get cheap funds. It is not easy for them to get funds from banks and financial institutions at competitive rates. Sometimes, banks charge them as much as 16-17%," sources said.

It is learnt that WBIDC is giving 5-year term loans at a 12.25-12.5% rate of interest. The corporation is raising funds from banks and then redirecting them to various projects by keeping minimum spreads. In 2008-09, WBIDC sanctioned term

loans worth Rs 140 crore. The figure is slated to rise to almost Rs 200 crore this fiscal.

"WBIDC has already sanctioned over Rs 100 crore in the first six months of this financial year. Considering that the world is coming out of the recession, sanctions in the second half would be more," sources said.

It has sanctioned a Rs 25 crore term loan for Mahabharat Motors for the 2-wheeler facility at Uluberia. Ramsarup Industries has got Rs

15 crore for its rolling mill project at Shyamnagar

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in North 24 Parganas. Besides, small firms like Calypso Foods, Mahalaxmi Vinimay (Rs 18 crore), Ke Technical Textiles (Rs 3 crore), Jumbo Bags (Rs 7 crore), Sobha Power (Rs 12 crore), Vasukinath Food Processing (Rs 20 crore) etc have also got fund sanctions.

"Sobha Power will make a solar module at Haldia. Vasukinath has proposed to set up a potato flex unit. Jumbo Bag will manufacture flexible bulk containers. All these are important projects and have good employment potential," sources said.