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Rel Power submits Rs 450crore plan for Raigad plant

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Mumbai: Even as elder brother Mukesh faces opposition over land for an SEZ, the Anil Ambani-led Reliance Power has submitted a Rs 450-crore package to the state for acquiring 2,460 acres at Shahpur taluka in Raigad for a 4,000-MW plant.

Almost half the package sum, claim R-Power officials, is meant for the relief and rehabilitation of project-affected persons (PAP). The government is, however yet to approve the relief package because of certain

per acre for fertile land and half the price for unproductive plots. Besides, it is also offering close to Rs 2 lakh per acre instead of 12.5% of developed land, a standard practice in all land acquisition for SEZs.

R-Power officials said they would provide 300-day wages to the affected landowners. "Once a person is notified as a landless labourer, he will be entitled to a minimum of 300-day wages," said an official.

The company has promised to provide jobs to all skilled and semi-skilled locals in the eight affected villages: "Engineers, if any, would be paid Rs 10,000 per month. Skilled workers would get Rs 5,500 per month and unskilled labour would be given Rs 5,000 a month," said officials. Besides, R-Power is also promising to provide free training to eligible PAPs or their wards at the Industrial Training Institute.

The state relief and rehabilitation department is, however, not satisfied with the job guarantee R-Power has laid out for PAPs.

Ramesh Kumar, principal secretary (R&R), pointed out deficiencies in the rehabilitation scheme. "The package has to be clear on giving jobs to at least one member per family, a standard practice under the Maharashtra Rehabilitation Act and the central act," he said.

Sources in the R&R department said the company cannot say that a family does not have an eligible candidate at all. "A person can always be trained," said officials.

R-power officials, on their part, are quick to point out that it has already indicated to give Rs 3 lakh per family in case the PAP does not have an eligible candidate to nominate for a job. "This one-time payment can work as an alternative for families which do not qualify for a job," said an official.

STUMBLING BLOCK



The government is, however, yet to approve the relief package meant for the Raigad power plant because of certain "deficiencies" in promising unconditional jobs to one person in every affected family, said Mantralaya officials

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R-Power has planned a dual fuel plant at Shahpur, comprising 2,800 MW of gas-fired units and 1,200 MW of coal-based units.

The plant would be in close proximity to the Tata Power unit in the Shahpur coastal area, located around 50 km off the Alibaug road.

As far as the monetary compensation goes, R-Power has promised Rs 10 lakh

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