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● CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

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ENS Economic Bureau
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CLEENERGEN India Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cleenergen Corporation (CRGE), a pioneer in clean energy generation, is all set to launch a 16 MW power project in Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu and a 64 MW power plant in Mangalore in Karnataka.

Addressing the media here on Tuesday, Mark Quinn, Chief Executive Officer, Cleenergen Corporation Limited (UK), said that both the projects in India would be based on the pyrolysis gasification technology and would operate on feedstocks invested from plantations set up by the company for cultivation of its own scientifically researched and developed species of grass and trees.

The total project cost is Rs 1,135.05 crore out of which Rs 397.27 crore is in the form of equity. Cleenergen, after providing for contributions from the parent company and private placement of shares, is planning to raise Rs 312 crore on the Indian markets.

He also said that the company had chosen a place like Tuticorin because of its natural advantage as a deep-sea port and the availability of enough logistics to go with transportation of materials.

"The land for the 16 MW project in Tuticorin has been acquired on a long lease. Of the 4,000 acres of plantation lands required for the cultivation of the feedstocks, 800 acres has already been acquired in Tirunelveli district, while the plan to acquire a further 1,200 acres is in an advanced stage of land survey. Arrangements are also being made for the acquisition of the balance 2,000 acres in

Tirunelveli district," he added.

"The supply of power from this plant and also the plant proposed to be set up in Karnataka has been contracted to Power Trading Corporation of India under a 15-year power purchase agreement," he noted.

Cleenergen has contractually secured access to the feedstock required for cultivation. One is a species of grass named Beema Bamboo, which has been developed and test planted for the company by its partner Growmore



Biotech Limited in Hosur. The results that have been validated indicate a yield of over 60 MT per acre after four years of cultivation on a planting density of 1000 plants per acre.

The other is a species of trees native to China and parts of Asia called Paulownia. Extensive research has been done on this species of trees and validated records indicate that this tree can potentially yield a biomass equivalent of over 40 MT every year.

Quinn said that Cleenergen wanted to generate a minimum of 500 MW of clean electricity by 2014 by developing and operating Distributed Environmental Power Systems (DEPS), which converted cultivated feedstock and a range of agricultural waste (biomass) into electricity.