

Power on demand

Powerful leverage

The primary motive of setting up a captive power plant (CPP) was the assurance of uninterrupted and economical supply of power. Shree's 36 MW power plant has not only helped the company delink from the state grid, but also made power available at a relatively cheaper rate of Rs. 2.04 per unit. It is one of the few captive power plants in the world to run on 100% pet coke fuel. The plant has a safety record of zero fatality since start of operations. It also has the distinction of zero disposal of solid wastes with all of it fully consumed in the manufacture of cement. The plant acquired the ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certifications in the first year of commissioning itself.

Generating success

Over the year, net generation from the CPP has grown to 2217 lac units, up 3.75% from 2137 lac units last year. Plant availability also increased from 94% to 95.5% which is a landmark for a thermal power plant of this size. Operational practices like running two turbines with one boiler also helped greater generation.



Shree

Looking back; looking ahead




Lower operational costs have been achieved by installing more efficient equipment, improvising adjustments to existing equipment, reducing number of shifts worked in the lime and coal plant, ensuring better capacity utilisation, initiating prudent power and water conservation measures.

Cost-savers

The boiler firing pet coke usually uses virgin bed material having 25-35% alumina costing Rs. 3000 PMT. Replacing it with limestone costing Rs. 140 PMT from Shree's captive mines saved the company about Rs. 360 lacs during the year. Even bringing down the consumption of limestone from the design-specified 140 TPD to about 70 TPD saved about Rs. 32 lacs extra.

Cost per unit

The cost per unit increased from Rs. 1.38 to Rs. 2.04 over the year. This would have been lower were it not for a huge increase of about 55% in the price of pet coke. The imposition of the electricity duty with effect from July 2004 has also had an effect in inflating the average cost of generation.



'What Next?'

We are geared to meet additional power requirements of the upcoming Bangur Cement Project. A 6 MW turbine generating set is expected to be commissioned by July 2005. We will generate more power from the existing plant through greater operational streamlining and capacity utilisation. And we are also exploring the possibility of setting up another power plant to make future operations fully dependent on economical captive power.

H C Kabra
Senior Vice President (Power Plant)

