

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust on Monday (15.5.2017) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) to upgrade Coal Jetty-I & II in the presence of ShriNitinGadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Shri P. Thangamani, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Government of Tamil Nadu&Shri M.C. Sampath, Minister for Industry, Government of Tamilnadu. The MoU was signed by Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust and Shri (Dr.) M. Saikumar, Chairman cum Managing Director, TANGEDCO at Transport Bhawan in New Delhi. The capacity of CJ – I and II after upgradation will be 24 MTPA from the present 6.25 MTPA and the estimated cost for upgrading CJ-I & II is about Rs.800 Cr.

The project is the outcome of Ministry of Shipping's Project Unnati, under which a study, 'Unlocking National Ports Potential' was done by M/s. Boston Consulting Group to improve the handling capacity of CJ-I & II. As per the MoU, initially Coal Jetty-I will be upgraded in about 24 months by constructing a new Coal Jetty-I of 300m X 25m along with repairing the existing CJ-I and to carry out the upgradation of CJ –II thereafter. The upgradation of infrastructure will enable TANGEDCO in reduction of logistics costs by quick turnaround of vessels due to deployment of high tech handling equipments like two ship unloaders of minimum 2000 TPH capacity each along with a high capacity conveyor system of 4000 TPH (Min.)

The Project will also enable TANGEDCO to handle additional volume of cargo for the upcoming new power plants in Uppur and Kadaladi in Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu. With the power generation from TANGEDCO's Tuticorin plants being linked to the National Grid, this would enable availability of additional power at reduced costs.

While the upgradation will give a competitive edge to VOC Port and will help the Port in maintaining its lead position in coal handling, TANGEDCO will be able to utilize the services of the Port in a more cost-effective way.

