

Malabar Cements to set up bulk cement handling unit in Kochi

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A major revamp is on cards for the Malabar Cements Ltd (MCL), as the government has accorded sanction to set up a Rs 160 crore bulk cement handling unit at Willingdon Island in Kochi. The facility will be commissioned soon on the land owned by Cochin Port Trust and leased to MCL and it could be used as a bulk material storage unit even for other PSUs in the state.

With that, it plans to import 13.2 lakh tons of bulk cargo per annum for cement manufacturing including limestone, sand, coal and clinker. As part of that, the first ship carrying 30,000 tons of clinker from Middle East will reach the Kerala shores next month. To enhance its quality cement production, MCL also plans to procure 1,300 tons of fly ash per day from Tamil Nadu fly ash bricks and blocks manufacturer's corporation (TANGEDCO), Udupi power corporation ltd (UPCL) and Hindustan newsprint limited and discussions are on for its bulk transport by rail, MCL officials said.

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“Tenders have been finalized for import of 30,000 tons of clinker from the Middle East by January for MCL’s clinker-grinding unit at Cherthala in Alappuzha,” said MCL managing director K Padmakumar. The bulk cement handling unit could be used as a material storage unit for other PSUs in the state, through sea route using port facilities, he said.

The feasibility report for the project to set up the bulk handling unit in 8.1 acre was prepared by [National Council for Cement and Building Materials](#) (NCCBM). Of the total project cost of Rs 160 crore projected by NCCBM, it includes contingencies and an upfront premium of Rs.36 crore to be paid in advance to the Cochin Port Trust. The capacity of the proposed plant is 0.6 metric tonnes per annum after stabilization and is expected to be commissioned soon.

It forms part of MCL's expansion plans, retaining the actual assets with an eye on profit retention maintaining a consistent turnover. With a production capacity of 4.2 lakh tonnes of cement per annum, the MCL unit at Walayar is the largest. Then it commissioned a two lakh tonnes clinker-grinding unit at Cherthala in Alappuzha district in August 2003. Thus the total installed capacity of MCL is 6.2 lakh tonnes and the company meets over 10% of the cement requirement of the state.

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