

Skipper growth path

STAFF REPORTER

Calcutta, April 19: Transmission tower maker Skipper Ltd has expanded its polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe manufacturing business outside Bengal by setting up a 10,000-tonne plant in Gujarat.

The expansion is a part of the company's plan to have a manufacturing capacity of 100,000-tonnes-per-annum of pipes over the next three years. The company is also planning to have facilities in Guwahati, Ghaziabad and Andhra Pradesh.

"The Indian PVC pipes and fittings market is pegged at Rs 20,000 crore by 2018-19, growing by 7-8 per cent per annum. Our national market expansion programme has started

PVC PIPE PUSH

The move

- Skipper has set up a 10,000-tonne PVC plant in Gujarat

The plan

- Have capacity of 100,000 tonnes per annum over 3 years

The prospect

- Domestic PVC pipes and fittings market seen at Rs 20,000cr by 2018-19

with our first facility in Gujarat, with further facilities coming up in various parts of the country," director Devesh Bansal said.

Bansal said the new plant entailed a total investment of approximately Rs 50 crore, including working capital and

marketing expenditure. Skipper's group company Prakriti Steels has made the investment.

"With the starting capacity of over 10,000 tonnes in Ahmedabad, Skipper will immediately become one of the leading capacities in Gujarat. We will look to achieve at least 10 per cent share of the Gujarat market within the next three years," director Siddharth Bansal said.

The company has secured new orders worth Rs 400 crore from Colombia for 500KV transmission line towers. Following the new orders, the company's total order book has grown to Rs 24 billion in the transmission and distribution business at the end of the fourth quarter of 2014-15.