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While the progress of the power sector in the last five years has been hugely credible and the policy regulatory environment has improved significantly, some major challenges continue to persist. **Rajiv Ranjan Mishra** tells **Mrinalini Prasad**.



ENERGY

'Resolve the environment vs. development debate'

— **Rajiv Ranjan Mishra**, Managing Director, CLP India Pvt. Ltd

Q What are the major challenges in the power sector today? How is CLP India geared to face these challenges?

The progress of the power sector in the last five years has been hugely credible. The policy regulatory environment has also improved significantly. However, some major challenges continue to persist like the availability of fuel, land and environmental approvals, and the health of the state distribution utilities. Serious efforts have to be made for increasing domestic production of coal. Land is also an issue because of the density of the population. To ensure that 2012 is better than 2011 for power producers the environment vs. the development debate must arrive at a balanced conclusion soon.

According to us, none of these problems are beyond resolution. On coal we have made several suggestions to government as private power producers related to CIL's output and availability of e-auction coal to power producers. Power plants with coal linkages can have mines allocated to them to carry out their own mining and imports will have to be increased with the price being passed on to consumers.

Q Apart from power generation, India also offers exciting opportunities in power transmission. Would CLP India be keen on this area?

In our home market we are a vertically integrated company and in India too we would like to be a vertically integrated company. We do believe that there is an opportunity in the transmission sector. We made a few unsuccessful bids, but what we found was that those who outbid us had bid aggressively and we feel such aggressive pricing is not sustainable in the long term. We continue to remain watchful of the transmission sector and may make investments in near future if a reasonable opportunity comes our way.

Q Fuel issues have been hampering many coal and gas based power projects across the country. Do you think this is having an impact on investment in the sector?

The acute shortage of coal in the country has definitely led to



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