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Amul plant in Bengal by next year



Calcutta, Feb. 19: Amul-owned Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation today said it was planning to set up a Rs 250-crore dairy processing plant in Bengal.

"The new modern plant at Sankrail food park will cost us Rs 250 crore with an optimum processing capacity of 15 lakh litres per day," Amul managing director R.S. Sodhi said.

The plant, which will come up on 16 acres, is expected to be operational in 15 months. Amul will manufacture milk products, ice cream and beverages in the plant.

At present, Amul operates three plants in Calcutta on a contractual basis with a total processing capacity of 7,25,000 litres of milk per day, Sodhi said.

Milk collection for Calcutta and the adjoining markets will be increased from local farmers.

Bigger picture

The dairy major plans to invest Rs 5,000 crore across the country over the next three years to ramp up milk production and new processing capacities.

"We will require Rs 5,000 crore over three years in adding new capacities, ramping up existing facilities and entering new markets," Sodhi said.

The company will set up 10 milk processing plants and upgrade existing units, which will translate into an enhanced processing capacity of 320 lakh litres from 230 lakh litres.

"The new investments will help to attain a Rs 50,000-crore turnover in 2-3 years from Rs 18,000 crore as on March 2014," Sodhi said.

Of the 10 new plants, five will be set up in Gujarat and the remaining will be in Faridabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Varanasi and Calcutta, he said.

The Anand-based dairy cooperative operates 51 plants in the country, of which 41 are in Gujarat.

Sodhi said the company's revenues should exceed Rs 21,500 crore this financial year and ruled out any immediate hike in the prices of its products.

Sodhi said milk prices were expected to remain at current levels for the next few months.