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Vested interests behind opposition to Jaitapur nuclear power plant : Rane

Industries Minister Narayan Rane on Saturday alleged that vested interests were behind the opposition to the proposed 10,000-MW Jaitapur nuclear power project in Konkan. He also promised an enhanced compensation package for those who will be affected by the project.

"The Communists are going there, the NGOs are coming there, these people have no relation with the area... they are poisoning the minds of people, spreading rumours... There are other people and organisations behind these people, may be from abroad who want to stop development," he said.

Rane, who will visit Jaitapur on January 29 to convince the locals to give up their opposition, said he had received information about the vested interests from the police.

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) has signed an MoU with French firm Areva for building two nuclear reactors with 1,650 MW capacity each at Jaitapur in Ratnagiri, to be eventually scaled up to 10,000 MW.

Rane said he had written to NPCIL on Thursday, seeking an additional compensation package for the project-affected. He said he had sought compensation at Rs 10 lakh an acre, besides two per cent of profits to be used for development works and supply of power from the plant to Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.

Rane said NPCIL chairman and managing director S K Jain had, in a fax message on Saturday, agreed to pay additional compensation for the land as decided by the state government and added that a committee under him (Rane) would soon send a revised proposal.