

Bihar CM felicitates SPML Infra for early project completion

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar recently conferred the award for "outstanding contribution in completion of the Saubhagya Scheme way ahead of its completion target." The award was given away at a function held in capital city Patna on November 1, 2018, and it was received by Abhinandan Sethi, Associate Director and Amitava Basu, Executive Vice President, both of SPML Infra Ltd.

The award stood for early completion of rural electrification works in Gaya district of Bihar. Speaking to T&D India on the achievement, Subhash Sethi, Chairman, SPML Infra, said that in view of the overall deadline of December 2018 for the Saubhagya scheme, South Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd asked SPML Infra to complete electrification of remaining 483 villages in Gaya district expeditiously. "SPML Infra put additional machinery and workforce and completed the electrification of as many as 483 villages in a month's time." This helped Bihar to complete electrification works under the Saubhagya scheme two months ahead of the scheduled completion date, put forth by the Prime Minister.

"We are very happy that our effort towards the rural electrification with sustainable infrastructure development has been recognized by the Government of Bihar with the prestigious award. The award is a testimony of our excellent project execution and delivery," was how Sethi expressed his satisfaction.

Elaborating on SPML Infra's engagement with electrification works in Bihar, Subhash Sethi noted that the company was already executing two important rural electrification projects in Patna and Gaya districts in Bihar before the Saubhagya scheme for household electrification was announced in September 2017. SPML Infra's scope of work involved development



Abhinandan Sethi, COO, SPML Infra receiving the award from Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar.

of power infrastructure including power substation and augmentation of supply line along with household connections which was also the scope of Saubhagya scheme. After the launch of Saubhagya, all household electrification becomes part of this scheme and household connection was speeded up keeping in mind the target set under the scheme. SPML Infra has provided more than 2 lakh household electricity connections in Patna and Gaya districts, Sethi explained.

At a pan-India level, SPML Infra has so far completed village electrification works in 20,000 villages, largely in Bihar but also in other states like Karnataka, Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. "SPML Infra is committed to provide sustainable infrastructure development solutions to make human lives comfortable," observed Sethi.

It may be recalled that



Saubhagya, a nationwide household electrification project was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 25 2017, with an objective of providing electricity connections to 4 crore "willing" non-electrified households by December 31, 2018. According to the official Saubhagya portal, out of the total 21.67 crore households in India, 20.56 crore households have been electrified, as of November 10, 2018. During the period October 11, 2017 to November 10, 2018, as many as 1.92 crore households were electrified.

Subhash Sethi emphasized that once completed, Saubhagya had the potential to change the socio-economic dimensions of India. "The lives of those getting the power connections are going to change significantly from dim light of kerosene lamps to bright lights for their children to study, and for small and cottage industries as well as domestic industries to flourish. The village electrification may also provide farmers to use tube-wells and bore-wells to irrigate their fields for better produce. The productive time has extended beyond sunset. Electrification will contribute to the economic development of the country, apart from several other measurable benefits," was how Subhash Sethi summarized the positive impact of nationwide household electrification. ■