

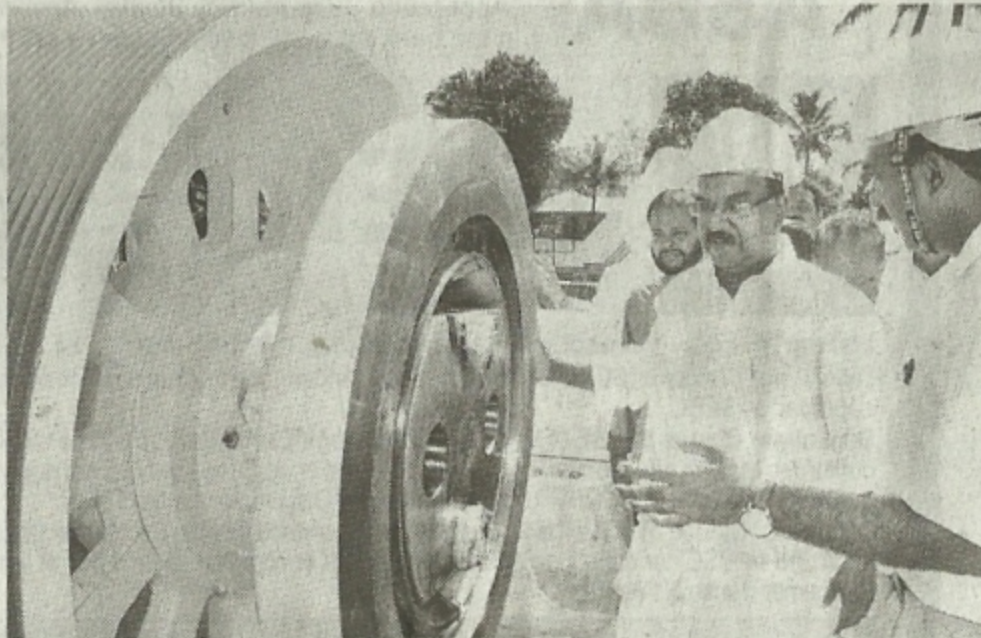
Minister reviews cattle feed project work

Says self-sufficiency in milk production is vital for food security

Staff Reporter

KOLLAM: Minister for Food and Animal Husbandry C. Divakaran said here on Wednesday that sufficient availability of cattle feed in the State was a vital factor in achieving the government's goal of self sufficiency in milk production. He was talking to presspersons after inspecting the progress of work on the upcoming fully automatic cattle feed factory being constructed by the public sector Kerala Feeds Ltd. (KFL) at Karunagapally.

The Minister said given the pace of work, he was confident that the Chief Minister would be able commission the factory in January. The cattle feed unit is coming up at a cost of Rs. 52 crore and will have the potential to provide direct employment to over 350 people and indirect employment to at least 1,000



INSPECTION: Minister for Animal Husbandry C. Divakaran takes a look at the imported pellet mill while inspecting the progress of work on the KFL cattle-feed factory coming up at Karunagapally in Kollam on Wednesday. - PHOTO: C. SURESH KUMAR

people. The Minister said attaining self-sufficiency in milk production was an important aspect of the food security programme and animal husbandry was vital in bring-

ing about major changes in the agriculture sector as part of the food security programme.

Mr. Divakaran said the price of milk would come

down if production was increased. In fact, from the three hi-tech dairy farms of Kerala Livestock Development Board that are coming up in the State, the government intended to directly market milk on a no-loss, no-profit basis. He noted that 85 per cent of cattle-feed production in the country was in the private sector. Farmers were not satisfied with the quality of most brands.

While the daily demand for cattle feed in the State was 3,500 tonnes, only about 2,500 tonnes was available in the market. Due to quality aspect, cattle feed from the KFL factory at Kallettumkara in Thrissur district, which produces 650 tonnes a day, enjoys 20 per cent of the market share. The Karunagapally factory will initially produce 300 tonnes a day and steadily achieve fully capacity of 500 tonnes.