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JAIN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

# PASSION FOR **EXPANSION**

Global is the new catchword for this company which seems to have the motto: grow and grow and grow



Mr Bhavarla! Jain

small sleepy little town in Maharashtra – Jalgaon – has a unique distinction. It is the home of the second largest producer of refined papain in the world. Papain is an agro-based enzyme extracted from semi-matured papaya. It finds application in a wide variety of industries like breweries,

food and pharma-ceuticals. The Jain and group of Jalgaon meets about 15 to 20 percent of the global demand for this enzyme. The "" group has already notched up an export turnover of Rs 100 lakhs per year from this single product.

But the Jains suffer from one weakness - a passion for growth. Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd (JISL), which went public with its microirrigation project with a fixed capital outlay of Rs 7.8 crores in 1987, is now all set to go global. It is coming out with a Rs 45-crore rights issue mainly to finance its expansion of the domestic division product range and diversification-cum-expansion of the export division products. The diversification of the export division products includes production of plastic sheets of various poly-

The project is already under implementation and will be fully completed, stage by stage, by March 1993. JISL's full production potential would be attained by 1995-96, with turnover projected at Rs 200 crores, of which Rs 85 crores would

be from exports.

The dynamic chairman of the Jain group, 54-year-old Mr Bhavarlal H. Jain, can easily pass for a youthful 40 with his boundless energy. Starting from humble beginnings, he has taken his group of companies to heights which others can only dream of. The Jain group

is the largest producer of PVC pipes in India, the second largest papain producer in the world, and the acknowledged number one producer of micro-irrigation systems in the country. The group's Emco Transformers Ltd

is also among the top seven producers in India. But Mr Jain does not like to desert his rural background. "We believe the heart of our business is rural," he avers.

ISL is quietly bringing about a second green revolution in Maharashtra and other states. Over the last three years, the company has supplied and installed micro-irrigation systems on over 40,000 acres of land, covering 34 different crops.

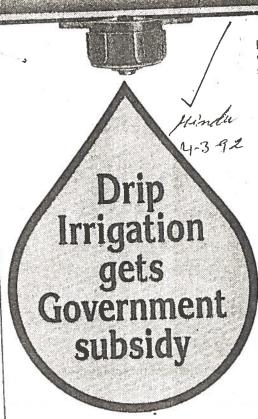
JISL has also chalked out plans to go global. It has come to the conclusion that it will have to essentially invest in the equity of marketing networks abroad to expand its global presence. Thus, it will either acquire interest in existing distribution networks on the Continent/ USA or go for complete take-over of such trading companies which have established business contacts over the past many years., JISL has also received same offers of joint collaboration from foreign corpora-

The Jain group, which has already made its mark in papain, PVC pipes and micro-irrigation systems, is now engaged in developing an altogether new wood substitute plastic sheet. Another project on the horizon is to harness solar energy.

The company is coming out with a rights issue to part finance its various expansion activities. The Rs 45-crore rights issue of partly convertible debentures is being offered to the existing shareholders on a 1:1 basis and will increase the equity capital of the company to Rs 9 crores after the conversion in October 1992 from the current level of Rs 3 crores. Of the debenture of face value of Rs 150, the convertible portion will be Rs 80 and the non-convertible portion Rs 70.

Mr Jain has a mania for quality and an obsession to keep India's flag flying abroad. He says, "Whatever we are making now is not very easily acceptable abroad, because today 'Made in India' is almost an abuse." The Jains want to change this image. It is entering into collaboration with Chapin Water-matics Inc., New York, for the manufacture of multi-chambered drip irrigation hoses. With this technical tie-up, the company will be in a position to offer any type of irrigation to meet individual requirements. The company will also be able to export these multi-chambered irrigation systems.

- T. M. Narayanur



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