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Jain Irrigation sets up largest systems mfg. plant

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JAIN Irrigation Systems Ltd (JISL), a public limited company, promoted and managed by the Jain group of industries, Jalgaon, has set up the largest micro irrigation systems manufacturing plant in India for fulfilment of its commitment to the cause of efficient water management.

According to Mr Ajit Jain, director of JISL, during 1963 to 1977 many more dealerships of reputed companies were acquired, mostly in the field of petroleum, farm inputs and equipment. The growth was swift and the sales turnover reached around Rs 10 crores.

He said in 1978, the group ventured into purchase of a sick unit which was originally conceived and commissioned as a banana powder factory. Since the erstwhile owners could not produce an acceptable quality banana powder, Jains adapted this equipment for processing papaya latex into refined papain — an industrially important export-

oriented enzyme. In December 1978, the first consignment of papain was exported to USA, Mr Jain said.

With rigorous marketing drive, in-house R and D facilities and a ceaseless pursuit for perfection, the export of this product has spread throughout the world and has reached a figure of Rs 100 lakhs per year, he added.

The group put up as many as seven units in a span of two and half years, Mr Jain said. Two more pipe units were also commissioned in Sendhwa, a tribal area of Madhya Pradesh, which have an annual turnover of around Rs 84 crore, he added.

Mr Jain said as a group, they achieved and continued to maintain the number one position in the field of manufacture of PVC pipes in the country.

In 1986, the group acquired Emco Transformers Ltd, a leader in the field of manufacturing high voltage transformers. Since then, the turnover of the transformer unit has increased to Rs 15 crores

annually, he said.

Computerisation was introduced way back in 1982 and presently several computers ranging from PC's to super minis are being employed for a variety of functions. This involved a total investment of Rs 50 lakhs, Mr Jain informed.

JISL have gone public with their micro irrigation project with a fixed capital outlay of Rs 7.8 crore. The group is floated in collaboration with the world leaders in the field, James Hardie irrigation, he said.

Jain irrigation is destined to play a pivotal role in bringing about the second green revolution, he said.

Over the last three years the company has supplied and installed micro irrigation systems on over 40,000 acres of land, valued at over Rs 45 crores, and have covered 34 different crops, Mr Jain said. Presently, the group's turnover is over Rs 107 crores, and has fixed assets of over 20 crores, he added.