

14th July The Hindu

Multi-specialty hospital to come up on Nokia premises

CHENNAI: Nokia will enter into a joint venture agreement with Apollo Hospitals to construct a 60-bed multi-specialty hospital in its manufacturing facility at Sriperumbudur and has sought State government nod.

The State government is likely to give its nod on Monday for the Rs.50-crore project at a meeting to be chaired by Deputy Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. The meeting will also sort out a civic problem.

Nokia officials approached Mr. Stalin last week, as it is operating from a leased land. The hospital will become operational in two years. Out of the 210 acres, Nokia will set aside three acres for the project. The hospital will treat its employees as well as the outsiders. Mr. Stalin, who also holds the industries portfolio, visited industrial parks and special economic zones at Oragadam and Sriperumbudur for the first time on Friday to hear the investor's grievances. He was accompanied by industries Secretary M.F. Farooqui and State Industrial Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) chairman and managing director N. Govindan along with other industry department officials. During his visit, Nokia officials said that they had employed over 9,000 people, of whom nearly 90 per cent were from socially backward classes. Besides 70 per cent of them were women.

Mr. Stalin visited the Renault-Nissan facility at Oragadam. The officials said that trial production would start by December 2009 and commercial production by May 2010.

Nokia is about 12 kms from Hiranandani Palace Gardens site at Singaperumal Koli. No sooner the 6-lane road is ready, travel time from site to hospital will be 10/15 minutes.