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Posco shifts housing project to Delhi

Cites Poor Law &
Order To Junk Orissa
Scheme

Rajaram Satapathy

Bhubaneswar: Posco has announced withdrawal of its plan to build 70 houses in Orissa's Jagatsinghpur district with the help of Habitat for Humanity citing law and order problems.

The Rs 40-lakh project has been shifted to Delhi and will start in January, a Posco release issued on Thursday said.

Habitat is an international organization engaged in building houses for people, which has land but not the resources. Posco had tied up with the organization in a programme called "No roof" campaign,

**Blockade against
Vedanta varsity**

Puri: Hundreds of villagers on Thursday blocked the Puri-Konark Marine Drive Road, asking the government to scrap the proposed Rs 15,000-crore Vedanta University project here. Supported by almost all political parties, the blockade will continue till Saturday. "We will not budge an inch from our stand until the government cancels the deal," said Benudhar Pradhan, president of the Vedanta Vishwabidyalaya Birodhi Sangharsa Samiti. TNN

Posco youth build" in which 100 South Korean and Indian university students would work as volunteers. "Initially, we had decided to implement the project at Jagatsinghpur. But it had to be shifted to Del-

hi due to concerns expressed by Habitat for Humanity over the law and order situation in the area," the release said.

The South Korean company has a proposal to set up a 12 MTPA mega steel plant near Paradeep at an estimated cost of Rs 51,000 crore, but has been facing stiff resistance from villagers fearing displacement.

Posco needs around 4,004 acres for its project for which an estimated 20,000 people are likely to be displaced. There have been continuous agitation in the area for the last two years and the people are not allowing anyone, including government officials, to enter the area ever since the MoU was signed between the company and Orissa government.

Though the government has time and again announced that land acquisition is on, the ground reality is different.