



Mrs Sarika Minda, Chairperson, Spark Minda Foundation, along with the Yerawada Jail authorities and Spark Minda officials, at the unveiling of the automotive lockset sub-assembly unit at Yerawada Central Prison, Pune

Spark Minda opens unit at Yerawada prison in Pune

To provide skills to female inmates



Mrs Sarika Minda, Chairperson, Spark Minda Foundation, lighting the lamp along with other prison officials during the inauguration ceremony of automotive lockset sub-assembly unit at Yerawada Jail in Pune

TAKING up a new initiative under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, Spark Minda, Ashok Minda Group opened an automotive lockset sub-assembly unit in female prison inside Yerawada Central Prison premises in Pune. This is the fifth such facility by Spark Minda after installing such units at Aurangabad, Tihar and Yerawada jails.

The manufacturing unit for automotive lock parts in the jail will facilitate female inmates to earn basic livelihood and learn skill sets required in manufacturing and finishing of automotive locks. A special female cell of Yerawada jail has identified around 25-30 female inmates as per the criteria laid down by Minda Corporation, a flagship company of Spark Minda, Ashok Minda Group. The female inmates will be trained to work on a shop floor for producing automotive locksets.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up the unit was

COMPONENTS



Mrs Sarika Minda interacting with female jail inmates at the assembly unit workshop

signed between Minda Corporation Ltd (MCL) and Yerawada Central Prison, Pune in February this year. Basic product awareness and training will be provided by MCL at the jail. Spark Minda Group will pay the compliance wages to the jail authorities, which will subsequently be paid to the inmates. Other than the supply to the customer, these products will be also sold in after-market.

As part of CSR efforts by Spark Minda, leaders and supervisors of MCL posted at the jail premises will also conduct basic motivational activities of recognising best employee inmate, efficient line, best suggestions and appreciations for WOW activity done during the job. The investment by the Group at Yerawada Jail includes entire machinery, raw materials, transportation of goods and other quality systems and procedures as per the MoU. The shop-floor will be run and maintained by jail inmates under the dedicated

supervision of MCL.

Speaking about the initiative Mr Ashok Minda, Group CEO, Spark Minda, Ashok Minda Group, said, "We are constantly engaged in various social upliftment activities at different locations. The Group's basic practice of installing manufacturing facilities and engaging jail inmates is a unique way of helping jail inmates in betterment of

their lives as well as inculcating in them basic business ethics for future prospects. We truly feel that women are indispensable part of entire ecosystem, empowering women means we are empowering the whole ecosystem and also coming generations linked to every woman."

Mrs Sarika Minda, Chairperson, Spark Minda Foundation, said, "Our association with jail authorities have been long known and well established till date with Aurangabad Jail, Tihar Jail and Yerawada Jail. We have been working continuously to provide skilling and livelihood to numerous jail inmates now, employing jail inmates not only help them earn livelihood but also imparts them a sense of productivity with knowledge about the business sector. Prison projects of our Group have been identified as the most innovative CSR model of the country recently by CSR Times and our Foundation was felicitated for this. We are quite thoughtful with the operational efficiency of female inmates as this will never restrict any female just to household activities."



A photograph of Mrs Sarika Minda along with other dignitaries outside the jail