

# Evaluating project's importance vital: Experts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Nagpur:** Experts and stakeholders at an Economic Times seminar on public private partnership (PPP) mode of infrastructure development called on government agencies to first evaluate the importance of a project before tying up with a private ally. The seminar was organized in association with aXYno Capital Services and Vishwaraj Infrastructure.

## ET SEMINAR

As the PPP model picks up in the country, there is now a stress on carefully selecting projects by evaluating the need for such a facility by the public and whether a government body should spare its resources in setting it up or not, they said.

Lately there have been instances of the government bodies tying up with private entities in projects that were not of pressing requirement of general pub-

comes up with a draft policy on PPP, it is likely such issues will also be addressed.

Methods like getting a direct opinion from the public through a referendum or a survey could also be adopted to ascertain the demand of any such project, the speakers said. The method of costing a PPP venture on which the government has often drawn flak was also discussed. Experts also called for rewarding the private partner for early completion of the project.

Ajay Saxena, a PPP expert from Asian Development Bank now engaged by the Maharashtra Government, said that the process of fixing cost of a PPP project should be strictly by the rule book as it happens in a regular engineering procure-



SV Chahande (from left), Arun Lakhani, Ajay Saxena, Pravin Darade and Priti Ramkrishnan during The Economic Times conference on Public Private Partnership at NIT Naivedyam hall, North Ambazari Road, on Thursday

ment and construction contract. The permissible range of the bids should also be decided before going ahead with the tender. In case the private players want to add any frills, it should be purely at their cost, he said. Saxena also endorsed the need for first identifying the

need of a project.

He also stressed on need to have a PPP cell in each government department through which the projects could be routed for approval to the concerned authority.

Pravin Darade, chairman of Nagpur Improvement Trust, talked about 31

projects NIT had lined up to be developed under this model. All the projects together entail an investment of Rs 620 crore, he informed.

These include multi-level parking on Central Avenue, community halls, sports complex, hospitals, diagnostic centres and even a library. The process of inviting bids and awarding contracts would start depending on the priority of the projects. The NIT is offering the land as its contribution in the venture with the rest being done by the private partner. The NIT does not intend to profit from the projects and would only recover the cost of the land provided by it, said Darade, who assured to finish all projects within his tenure of two and a half years.

Madhu Kumare