



ELECTRIC LOCO SHED, TATANAGAR: ON THE PATH OF PROGRESS

Electric Loco Shed was established at Tatanagar in the year 1962 under the supervision of SNCF Railway, France to cater to the operational requirement of the mining and Industrial sectors of Eastern and Central India following the introduction of 25kv traction in Chakradharpur division in the year 1959. This shed was the 2nd Electric Loco Shed to be established over Indian Railways. It started functioning with 69 WAM-1 type locomotives. The shed continued to expand and diversify in subsequent years and its holding went up to as high as 209 locos in the year 1970 consisting of WAM-1, WAG-1 and WAM-4 locos. Subsequently with the establishment of a Electric Loco Shed at Bhilai and transfer of WAG-1 locomotives to other sheds, the loco holding has now been reduced to 182 locos which is however now poised to go up to 250 within half decade with the introduction of WAG9 locomotives.

With the steady increase in loco holding it had become impossible to carry out the maintenance schedules in the original Shed and a new Shed with expanded facilities was commissioned in the year 1978. The original Shed was converted as the Traction Repair Shop which started functioning in 1978 with the rewinding of WAM4 armatures. Since then the Traction Repair Shop has developed expertise in EMU armatures, Stator rectification, re-shafting of TAO armature, Rewinding of Auxiliary Motors, Coil manufacturing, Repair of smoothing reactors etc.

To cope with the diversification and increased responsibilities, bay lines 3 & 4 of the Shed were extended and pits provided in the year 1990. Another pit at line No.8 was also provided in the year 1991-92. The Heavy and Light lifting bays were extended in 1999 and Dissolved Gas Analyzer as well as TIG Welding Plants were provided in the same year. The Wheel Centre Shop was also inaugurated at ELS/TATA in the year 2005. Even today, Electric Loco Shed, Tatanagar is the only shed in the Indian Railways to be provided with a Wheel Centre Shop.

The shed has over the years been consistently adjudged the best Loco Shed in South Eastern Railways and has made a name for itself in cost effective maintenance. The success story of the shed could never be scripted without the dedicated efforts of its work force.

The Loco shed is facing challenging times ahead with the loco holding set to increase upto 250 and introduction of maintenance of WAG9 locos. To meet the enhanced demand various works for infrastructural upgradation are in the offing including extension of Shed, Axle turning Machine, TAO conversion works etc.

These works are planned to be completed by the year 2014 at an estimated expenditure of Rs.25 Crore.

One noteworthy recent achievement of the shed has been the successful commissioning of the Loco Trolly to provide long haulage freight transportation.

The Shed is aware of its responsibilities in a dynamic operational scenario and shall leave no stones unturned in its quest for excellence.