



Stronger presence: Mr N.S. Sekhsaria (left), Chairman, ACC Ltd, and Mr Paul Hugentobler, Deputy Chairman, at the company's 74th AGM in Mumbai on Thursday. — Shashi Ashiwari

ACC to pump in Rs 1,300 cr for capacity expansion

Our Bureau

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Holcim-owned ACC will invest Rs 1,300 crore in 2010 to expand capacity to 30.5 million tonnes from 26 million tonnes.

Mr Sumit Banerjee, Managing Director, said the company did not plan to increase its stake in Shiva Cement (in which it already has a considerable holding) or consider acquisitions this year.

"All capacity additions this year will be through brown-

field expansions," he said on the sidelines of the 74th annual general meeting here on Thursday.

Earlier addressing the shareholders at the AGM, Mr N.S. Sekhsaria, Chairman, said 2010 would see 70 million tonnes of cement capacity being added, intensifying competition in parts of the country.

"India is the world's third-largest producer of coal but in view of the demand-supply mismatch, the cement industry does not receive adequate

supply of appropriate Indian coal," he said.

The share of captive power in ACC's total consumption increased to 71 per cent in 2009 from 66 per cent recorded in the preceding year. Additional power capacity of 50 MW at Wadi and 25 MW at Chanda is expected to come up in 2010, he added.

The company foresees demand to grow at 9-10 per cent driven by infrastructure and housing. ACC shares on the BSE were down 1.25 per cent at Rs 962 on Thursday.