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Industry hails push for green growth

RAJAT MISHRA

New Delhi, February 2

THE UNION BUDGET tried to lay a roadmap for the country's green and sustainable growth with a special emphasis on the circular economy by keeping Rs 10,000 crore for setting up biogas plants, a move hailed by the industry.

Industry leaders see this as a move in the direction for transition to a gas-based economy and have a 25% share of natural gas in India's energy mix by 2030. According to the Budget announcement, 200 compressed biogas plants, including 75 in urban areas, and 300 cluster-based plants will be set up.

Compressed biogas, or CBG, is

produced by anaerobic decomposition of agricultural waste, sugarcane press mud and municipal waste. It can be used as a fuel for automobiles.

"In recent years, there has been an increased push from the government for blending CBG with natural gas and promoting its adoption as a fuel, particularly in the transportation segment that uses CNG," said Shailesh Tyagi, partner, Climate Change and Sustainability Services, EY India.

"At present, natural gas's share in the energy basket is 6.4%, which is expected to grow to 15% by 2033. Accordingly, the growth of the compressed biogas industry can be seen if we directly index it," said Gaurav Kedia, chairman of the Indian Bio-

gas Association.

The government also announced that in due course, a CBG mandate will be introduced for all organisations marketing natural and biogas, and for the collection of biomass and distribution of bio manure. "The government will give fiscal support for this," FM Nirmala Sitharaman said during her Budget speech on Wednesday.

"The OMCs (oil marketing companies) have been mandated to provide a 5% share of CBG in the Union Budget," said Kedia, adding that amounts to 2.5 million tonne per year if we see the country's LNG requirement, which could only be around 50 million tonne.

Currently, entrepreneurs, corpo-

rations, dairies and others can set up plants for the generation of CBG on a commercial scale and it can be sold to industries or oil marketing companies (OMCs) under the scheme. Many govt PSUs such as GAIL, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) are some of the companies with existing plans for CBG plants. This policy will ensure minimum off-take risk for upcoming CBG plants, said Varun Karad, chief business officer, GPS Renewables. "There are around 100 plants which will be commissioned in this calendar year and such positive developments will only promote the growth of this sector," he added.

ADANI FIRMS IN OPPOSITION-RULED STATES

As Opposition raises heat on charges of accounting fraud and stock market manipulation against Adani Group, a look at a few projects in Opp-ruled states

ODISHA

Dhamra, Bhadrak

■ The Group has put in Rs 7,600 crore to develop port with five berths and a cargo-handling capacity of 38 MT

■ LNG terminal in association with 2 Central PSUs — IOCL and GAIL

Kashipur, Rayagada

■ Got approval to set up a 4 MTPA alumina refinery and 175 MW power plant with an investment of ₹41,653 cr

PUNJAB

Kotkapura, Faridkot

■ Adani Agri Logistics' warehouse to store wheat and paddy, registered in 2016 during SAD-BJP govt

Moga: Adani

■ Agri Logistics' warehouse. Started in 2007



Vizhinjam Port project in Thiruvananthapuram

Rajpura, Patiala

■ Adani Wilmar Limited owns a warehouse. Project okayed during SAD-BJP govt

Kila Raipur, Ludhiana

■ Adani Logistics Park, a dry port, coming up.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Solan and Bilaspur

■ Cement plants. Both were owned by Ambuja. Owing to truckers' stir over freight rates, plants are now shut

KERALA

Vizhinjam

Thiruvananthapuram

■ Adani Vizhinjam Port Ltd is developing a seaport. Agreement signed in 2015 for developing the ₹7,500cr project

JHARKHAND

Godda

■ 1,6000 MW Adani plant supplies electricity to Bangladesh. Cost: ₹14,450 cr (approximately)

