₹7-trn coal gasification ventures on the cards

MANISH GUPTA
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THE GOVERNMENT'S AMBITIOUS plan to create capacities to turn 100 million tonne (MT) of its annual coal production into gaseous form by 2030 with investments of over ₹7 trillion has got a shot in the arm, with three large central PSUs – BHEL, Indian Oil and GAIL (India) – set to form separate joint ventures with Coal India for large "syngas" projects.

"BHEL has the technology for coal gasification. All four of them (PSUs) are on board. They are moving ahead," coal secretary Amrit Lal Meena told *FE*, adding that NLC India (formerly Neyveli Lignite) might also join the bandwagon soon.

Syngas or gasified coal is potentially a rich source of clean energy, which allows diversification of use of coal beyond power and steel sectors, including as building block in the petrochem value chain.

According to the preliminary feasibility report prepared by state-run Projects & Development India (PDIL) states that investments to the tune of ₹10,000 crore will be required for 1.4 MT coal gasification capacity, the official said.

CLEAN ENERGY

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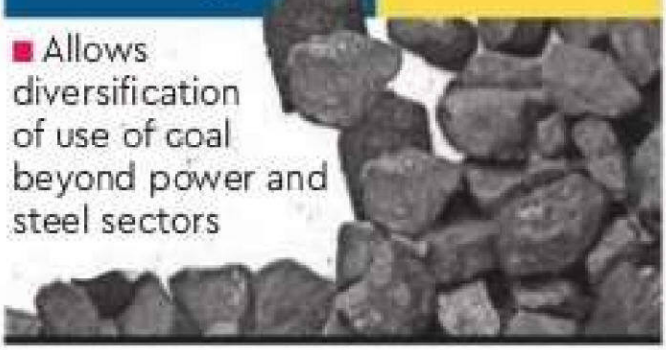
Investments of **₹10,000 crore** to be required for **1.4 MT** coal gasification capacity



Continued on Page 2