



NMDC WINS SCOPE AWARD



National Miner NMDC won the prestigious SCOPE Eminence Award for its Corporate Social Responsibility and Responsiveness. The Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the award to NMDC for its transformational CSR initiatives changing the dynamics of the region where its major projects are located. Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Addl. Charge) NMDC said, "NMDC is committed to shape a brighter future for our host communities living in the remotest region. As a responsible corporate leader, we aim to empower the dreams of our tribal community and bring sustainable economic growth in rural India with our CSR initiatives such as Skill Development for sustainable income generation."

HPCL recieves three prestigious SCOPE awards

Pushp Kumar Joshi, HPCL's Chairman & Managing Director, and Ritwik Rath, Executive Director (I/C) - ERP, on behalf of HPCL, received three coveted awards from the Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar.

The awards ceremony, organized by the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), celebrated



HPCL's outstanding achievements in various domains. The distinguished awards bestowed upon HPCL are as

follows: SCOPE Eminence Award for Human Resource Management: This accolade recognizes HPCL's commitment to fostering an exemplary work environment and its innovative approach to human resource management. SCOPE Eminence Award for Digital Transformation: HPCL stands out for its visionary approach to embracing digital transformation, contributing significantly to the organization's growth and efficiency. SCOPE Meritorious Award for the effective implementation of the RTI Act: HPCL's dedication to transparency and accountability is underscored by this meritorious award, emphasizing the effective implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

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Page No. 13, Size:(18.26)cms X (5.77)cms.



CRUDE WATCH

OIL PRICES RISE

Oil prices rose for a second week in a row and settled at their highest in nearly two months on Friday as positive US economic growth and signs of Chinese stimulus boosted demand expectations. **REUTERS**



IGL's PNG service to reach 57 villages, campaign begins

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: City gas utility Indraprastha Gas Ltd has set its eyes on 57 villages in Delhi's south-west region to expand its piped natural gas (PNG) service as urban areas near saturation and electric vehicles threaten compressed natural gas (CNG) sales, affecting overall volumes.

The company kicked off its rural campaign by starting gas supply to a few households in Dhansa village, with 2,000 potential households, near Najafgarh on Republic Day. The campaign is part of a national drive initiated by the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to popularise PNG in line with the government's bid to expand the share of gas in India's energy basket to 15% by 2030 from about 6% at present.

Dhansa is the first village of the territory of Delhi as one enters from Badli in Haryana. It is one of the Capital's largest villages with a population of 7,000 people.

Launching the PNG service, PNGRB chairman Anil Kumar Jain appealed villagers to co-operate in laying pipelines so that households get connections quickly. The national drive, which will be on till March 31, is aimed at making villages and towns stakeholders in the country's growth through adoption of clean energy. He added that initiatives to promote biogas and agri-waste-to-gas projects will increasingly supplement clean fuel supply in rural areas, creating a circular economy in villages.

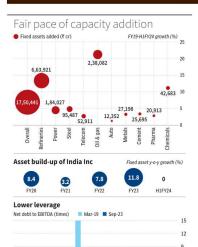
IGL managing director Kamal Kishore Chatiwal said the company has connected 1.7 million households in the Capital and in an encouraging sign, 450 out of the 2,000 potential households in Dhansa village have already registered for PNG connection. The company's director (commercial), Pawan Kumar, said IGL is focused on connecting villages and towns with PNG in all its licence areas.

IGL had started laying a 1.2 km gas pipeline to connect Dhansa village with the company's main distribution network at Air Force Station, Kazipur on the Najafgarh-Dhansa Road in October last year. Since then, 16 km of pipeline has been laid within the village for piping gas to households.

Dhansa is believed to be an ancient village, dating back to the Mahabharat era, where Bhim's son Ghatotkach had dug up a pond — Ghodai — in the village that exists till today next to the Dada Budha temple.



Room for capex boom POSITIVE NUMBERS. India Inc's capacity addition, leverage and return trends indicate comfort for capital spends to fuel the next leg of growth





How they fared financially

	CAGR growth in % FY19-H1FY24			
	Fixed assets	Debt	Revenue	PAT
Overall	6.9	5.4	8.7	17.5
Refineries	13.3	2.8	9.1	24.7
Power	4.5	3.1	12.6	24.7
Steel	4.8	-2.2	11.5	8.1
Telecom	2.6	11.7	9.6	-2.6
Oil & gas	21.2	6.4	9.2	16.7
Auto	1.2	6.7	7.4	23.1
Metals	3.2	3.7	8.5	5.9
Cement	3.3	-3.5	9.0	12.4
Pharma	2.8	-3.2	10.2	16.8
Chemicals	11.1	13.1	10.2	4.8

Sai Prabhakar Yadavalli

fter registering sev-eral index highs, In-dia Inc bears the weight of high ex-pectations. From

weight of high expansion to multiple expansion, the benchmark index at current levels is baking in a near blue-sky scenario. While revenue and earnings growth potential are repeatedly scrutinised, what flies under the radar is the balance sheet strength. We analysed 1,696 companies with reported financials from FYI9 to H1FY24 to answer three main questions. What is the pace at which fixed assets have been added? What is the debt liability onboarded to finance them? And finally, what is the shareholder return implicathe shareholder return implication from the activity?

Our analysis shows that India Inc's balance sheet today is healthy for a fresh round of capex to fuel the next leg of growth. Pace of asset addition matches pace of revenue growth. Leverage has been constant or better in some cases. Return ratio is currently at a multi-year high.

But investors must note that while capacity of balance sheet to support growth is strong, actual growth will continue to be a function of demand. Our analysis shows that India

ABSOLUTE FIXED ASSETS

ABSOLUTE PIXED ASSETS ADDITION If India Inc. reported 8 per cent revenue CAGR during PY19-HIPY24 it has matched the fixed assets growth at 6.9 per cent. While additions in FY21 did falter due to Covid, the later periods made up for the lag (see table), especially the 12 per cent addition witnessed in FY23. The first half of the current fiscal has seen a slowdown on overall slowdown could be attributed to a 'wait and watch' approach in some pockets after a tributed to a 'wait and watch' approach in some pockets after a high base. It could also be that capex is back-loaded in the second half. Sectorally, refineries (essentially Reliance Industries), oil and gas and chemicals have seen high growth over the last five years. Except for oil and gas, investments may slow down in the other two for reasons explained below.

Reliance Industries reported 15 per cent fixed asset addition in the last five and-a-half years. Especially post-Covid, the company added assets at 20 and 27

per cent YoY in FY22 and FY23 but has slowed to 5 per cent in HIFY24 as its ventures attain self-sufficiency.
ONGG is the main driver in oil and gas sector. From average set growth in HIFY24 alone. The oil major plans a renewable foray and has chalked out plans of \$1,00,000 crore by FY30 for foraying into solar space.
Within chemicals, SRF and peers added assets at the rate of 18 per cent in the last five-and-ahaf years. Either import substitution or China + 1 has evidently driven capex additions. In the short term, though, speciality chemicals may most likely temper expansion plans — owing to inventory build-up.
In sectors including steel and automobiles, where stock returns have far exceeded index returns due to a cyclical upturn, fixed asset additions have surprisingly been under restructuring in the UK. JSW Steel led from the front, adding capacity at 14 per cent CAGR, Interestingly, amongst the smaller caps, Shyam Metalics, APL Apollo Tubbes and WelSpun have addef fixed assets at 27-31 per cent

CAGR in FY19-H1FY24.
Despite pent-up order book, improved product mix and realisations, automobile capacity addition at 1 per cent CAGR in the period misses the mark. Capex is not a major part of the Auto story as yet, with split between internal combustion and Electric vehicles vying for the moderate allocation.

IMPROVED LEVERAGE
METRICS
For India Inc, the positive takeaway is that this has not been a debt-fuelled expansion unlike earlier periods. Leverage ratio for India Inc stands at a more acceptable 2.5 times net debt to EBITDA in HIFY24, contracting significantly results. dobt to EBITDA iIIIP724, contracting significantly from 4.2 times in PY19. In relation to fixed asset growth, pace of debt expansion at 5.4 per cent CAGR for FY19-H1FY24 is a step below asset addition growth mentioned earlier. Sectors that saw sharpest fixed asset expansion, refineries (13 per cent), have witnessed only 3 and 6 per cent CAGR growth in debt in FY19-H1FY24. For pharma, steel and cement, where fixed assets have

grown by 3-5 per cent CAGR, debt has actually gone down in absolute basis. Commodity cycle is a part of the reason for decline, albeit in different ways. Steel and cement gained from higher prices and volumes in the last five years, which helped with deleveraging. With reversal expected in commodity price infation (derived from slower global growth foreasts) price-driven growth may falter even as domestic volume growth may be strong. Pharma, on the other hand, has seen a reversal of fortunes in the US market along with several high-value launches but domestic market competition is increasing. The two sectors at high leverage are power distribution and telecom. Despite improvement in net debt to EBITDA in all segments, the ratic continues to be above three times for these two.

above three times for these two. Power sector will remain Power sector will remain over-leveraged owing to several factors. Power deficit in India can keep realisations elevated, allowing for effective debt servicing. Ministry of Power's ambitious 500 GW addition by 2003-32 should keep demand for capital elevated. PSUs mostly operating in the sector with government backing adds credibility to credit demand and servicing capacity. Leverage in telecom derives from Vodafone and Bharti Airtel. Moratorium on spectrum-related dues is keeping Vodafone afloat, which meeds further capital infusion to compete.

capital infusion to compete. Bharti Airtel's capex phase may be nearing an end with 5G investments and structural uptrend in ARPUs from a con-solidated industry may delever-age Bharti Airtel's balance sheet.

age Bharti Airrel's balance sheet.

SHAREHOLDER RETURNS
ON TOP

At 15.6 per cent RoE (Return on Equity) for India Inc in H1FV24
(based on annualised PAT), which is a 390 bps improvement over FY19, shareholder returns have been strong. On looking at the return drivers between revenue and PAT growth of 8.7/12-9.

HIFY24, one can find that margine expansion has been the real value driver for shareholders. EBITDA margins increased from 14 per cent to 20 per cent in the period. With the exception of steel, all the other sectors witnessed expanded margins. Power, auto and telecom had a double-digit margin expansion. Amongst sectors, RoEs shrunk for steel and chemicals and RoE has been flat for cement. Moderation in returns further underlines the expected slowdown in chemicals' asset growth and underwhelming asset growth in steel mentioned earlier. But being tied to the

growth and underwhelming as-set growth in steel mentioned earlier. But being tied to the commodity cycle, these three sectors are bogged down by the slowdown in commodity infla-tion, which indicates a burnout of growth. Overall, India Inc sitting on healthy return for shareholders while increasing asset base of operations is a positive sign. That the leverage ratios are at near-ideal levels fruther sup-ports the current ongoing rally in indices. Power, auto and tele-com show strong appetite for com show strong appetite for continued growth.

Capex streak continues

oing forward, companies are sticking to their original capex plans made. Leading from the front is power sector capex—with ambitious 500 GW of additional power capacity to be installed by 2030-32. NTPC, Adani Green, Tata Power and JSW Energy will sustain their capex momentum. The power transmission infrastructure led by Power Grid is expected to do a significant chunk of the ₹2.4 lakh crore inter-State transmission capex by 2030.

PSUs as a group are similar to broader market in terms of capacity addition or lower reliance on debt. However, on outlook, SAIL, MTPC, ONGC and other PSUs do have big capes plans. TMPC is looking to spend '25,000 crore over the next three years to support its plans to create 130 GW power generation capacity. ONGC plans to foray into renewable energy at an even higher outlay (*30,000 crore for FY24). Reliance and Plant1 Airrel should be nearing 5G capex completion in

FY24-25 and later focus or

FY24.25 and later focus on deleveraging along with Reliance's retail with a strong R24,000 crore operating cash expected in FY24. Steel companies Tata Steel, JSW Steel, or SAIL are looking to double their capacity in the next teny ears with ₹10,000-12,000 crore capex appice every year even as ReE moderation, margin compressions or import competition on ont support the expansion. Similarly, the chemicals sector is unrelenting on expansion, despite

financials not being in support. But, company-specific case can be made when expansion is for contracted capacity or a product-specific

capacity or a product-specine expansion. Finally, cement and paints, part of the construction bracket, are steadfast on expansion. Grasim's expansion will intensify competition in paints. Cement, on the other hand, its equally focused on consolidation and greenfield expansion at the same time...



To counter smog, UP to set up 100 biogas plants

OUR CORRESPONDENT

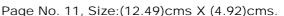
LUCKNOW: With an aim to counter the problem of smog in NCR, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has unveiled plans to set up 100 new biogas plants in Uttar Pradesh, further solidifying the state's prowess in the biogas sector.

Speaking to the press ahead of the inauguration of the Compressed Biogas Plant in Badaun, Minister Puri disclosed: "Today marks the inauguration of a new compressed biogas plant in Badaun district, with foundation stones laid for similar ventures in 8 other districts of Uttar Pradesh. The meticulous process, including site selection

for 37 of these plants, has already been concluded. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's unwavering support has been instrumental in driving this initiative forward."

Highlighting the state's remarkable progress, Puri remarked: "Under the leadership of CM Yogi, Uttar Pradesh has transcended its former 'BIMARU' status and has excelled across various sectors."

Detailing the features of the newly established plant in Badaun, Puri revealed that it sprawls across 50 acres, boasting an investment of approximately Rs 135 crore. It is anticipated to churn out around 14 tonnes of compressed biogas daily, offering a sustainable solution to stubble management issues.





ओएनजीसी डिजिटल कॉर्पोरेट विजुअलाइज़ेशन सेंटर का पेट्रोलियम मंत्री ने किया उद्घाटन

नई दिल्ली,(वीअ)। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस और आवास एवं शहरी मामलों के मंत्री, हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने आज नई दिल्ली में ओएनजीसी के अत्याधुनिक डिजिटल कॉर्पोरेट विजुअलाइज़ेशन सेंटर 'ओएनजीसी दर्पण' का उद्घाटन किया।भारत में यह अपनी तरह का पहला डिजिटल हब, वास्तविक समय (रीयल टाइम) के आधार पर ओएनजीसी के तेल एवं गैस कुओं और ड्रिलिंग इकाइयों (अपतटीय सहित) की निगरानी कर सकेगा। अत्याधुनिक निगरानी से मानवीय हस्तक्षेप और डाउनटाइम को कम

करने, संचालन को अनुकूलित करने और पूर्वानुमानित रख-रखाव (प्रेडिक्टिव मेंटेनेंस) में मदद मिलेगी। उद्घाटन के मौके पर पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के सचिव पंकज जैन, उद्योग संवर्धन एवं आंतरिक व्यापार विभाग (डीपीआईआईटी) के सचिव राजेश कुमार सिंह और ओएनजीसी के अध्यक्ष एवं मुख्य कार्यकारी, अरुण कुमार सिंह उपस्थित थे। इस दौरान केंद्रीय मंत्री ने 'एनर्जी स्टार्टअप्सः ड्राइविंग द एनर्जी फ्यूचर' विषय पर आयोजित बैठक में भी भाग लिया, जहां उन्होंने बंगाल की खाडी के कृष्णा गोदावरी बेसिन में इस महारत्न कंपनी की प्रमुख गहरे पानी की परियोजना केजी-98/2 से तेल का उत्पादन शुरू होने के संबंध में ओएनजीसी कर्मचारियों की सराहना की और कहा कहा कि बंगाल की खाड़ी के तट पर स्थित जटिल और कठिन गहरे पानी वाले केजी-डीडब्ल्यूएन-98/2 ब्लॉक से तेल का उत्पादन हो चुका है। अधिकतम उत्पादन का स्तर 45,000 बैरल प्रति दिन और 10 एमएमएससीएमडी गैस प्रति दिन है।मुझे विश्वास है कि तेल और गैस दोनों का उत्पादन इससे कहीं अधिक होगा।



पेट्रोलियम मंत्री ने किया ओएनजीसी दर्पण का उद्घाटन

वैभव न्यूज 🔳 नई दिल्ली

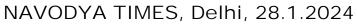
पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस और आवास एवं शहरी मामलों के मंत्री, हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने दिल्ली में ओएनजीसी के अत्याधुनिक डिजिटल कॉर्पोरेट विजुअलाइजेशन सेंटर 'ओएनजीसी दर्पण' का उद्घाटन किया। भारत में यह अपनी तरह का पहला डिजिटल हब, वास्तविक समय (रीयल टाइम) के आधार पर ओएनजीसी के तेल एवं गैस कुओं और ड्रिलिंग इकाइयों की निगरानी कर सकेगा। अत्याधृनिक निगरानी से मानवीय हस्तक्षेप और डाउनटाइम को कम करने, संचालन अनुकुलित करने और पूर्वानुमानित रख-रखाव (प्रेडिक्टिव मेंटेनेंस) में मदद मिलेगी। इस मौके पर पेटोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के सचिव पंकज जैन, उद्योग संवर्धन एवं आंतरिक व्यापार विभाग (डीपीआईआईटी) के सचिव राजेश कुमार सिंह और ओएनजीसी के अध्यक्ष एवं मुख्य कार्यकारी, अरुण क्मार सिंह उपस्थित थे। मंत्री ने एनर्जी स्टार्टअप्स ड्राइविंग द एनर्जी फ्यचर विषय पर आयोजित बैठक में भी भाग लिया, जहां उन्होंने बंगाल की खाड़ी के कृष्णा गोदावरी बेसिन में इस महारत्न कंपनी की प्रमुख गहरे पानी की परियोजना केजी-98/2 से तेल का उत्पादन शुरू होने के संबंध



उद्घाटन

संचालन को अनुकूलित करने और पूर्वानुमानित रख-रखाव में मिलेगी मदद

में ओएनजीसी कर्मचारियों की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि बंगाल की खाडी के तट पर स्थित जटिल और कठिन गहरे पानी वाले केजी-डीडब्ल्यूएन-98/2 ब्लॉक से तेल का उत्पादन हो चुका है। अधिकतम उत्पादन का स्तर 45,000 बैरल प्रति दिन और 10 एमएमएससीएमडी गैस प्रति दिन है। मंत्री ने कहा कि उन्हें विश्वास है कि तेल और गैस दोनों का उत्पादन इससे कहीं अधिक होगा। ओएनजीसी के निदेशक (उत्पादन) पंकज कुमार, ओएनजीसी दर्पण में वास्तविक समय के आधार पर उत्पादन कुओं की दूरस्थ निगरानी दिखाते हुए बंगाल की खाड़ी में गहरे पानी वाले केजी-डीडब्ल्यूएन-98/2 ब्लॉक से तेल का उत्पादन इसी माह को शुरू हो गया है।





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पैट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने नई दिल्ली में ओ. एन. जी. सी. के अत्याधुनिक



डिजिटल निगरानी केंद्र 'ओ.एन.जी.सी. दर्पण' का उद्घाटन किया। भारत में यह किसी कंपनी का अपनी तरह का पहला डिजिटल केंद्र है, जो ओ.एन.जी.सी. के तेल

एवं गैस कुओं और ड्रिलिंग इकाइयों की निगरानी कर सकेगा। इससे कंपनी के लिए इन कामों हेतु मानवीय हस्तक्षेप और मशीनरी सिक्रिय करने के समय को कम करने, संचालन को अनुकूलित करने और पूर्वानुमानित रख-रखाव (प्रैडिक्टिव मेंटेनेंस) में मदद मिलेगी।



बायोगैस प्लांट से आय बढ़ेगी: योगी



बदायूं, हिन्दुस्तान टीम। मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने कहा कि प्रदेश में आठ नए कंप्रेस्ड बायोगैस प्लांट बनेंगे। इससे किसानों की आय बढ़ेगी और युवाओं को रोजगार मिलेंगे।

मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी की मौजूदगी में बदायूं के सैजनी में शनिवार को एचपीसीएल के कंप्रेस्ड

प्रदेश में 100 और सीबीजी प्लांट स्थापित होंगे: पुरी

केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री मंत्री हरीदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा कि 2047 तक देश को विकसित बनाना है। जल्द ही उत्तर प्रदेश में एक ट्रीलियन अर्थव्यवस्था बनने वाली है। यूपी में आठ नये सीबीजी प्लांट का शिलान्यास हो गया है। सालभर में 100 और सीबीजी प्लांट स्थापित किये जायेंगे।

बायोगैस प्लांट के उद्घाटन के दौरान यह बातें कहीं। इसके साथ ही प्रदेश के आठ जिलों में बनने वाले बायोगैस प्लांटों का शिलान्यास भी किया गया। बदायुं के सैजनी में शनिवार को सीएम ने सभा को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि प्लांट से युवाओं को रोजगार मिलेगा और किसानों व पशुपालकों की आमदनी बढ़ने के साथ ही प्रकृति का भी संरक्षण होगा।



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घोषणा

बायोपयूल सेक्टर में यूपी सरकार से मिल रहा बड़ा सहयोगः केंद्रीय मंत्री

यूपी में जल्द स्थापित होंगे १०० बायो गैस प्लांटः पुरी

वैभव न्यूज 🔳 लखनऊ

केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने घोषणा की है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में जल्द ही 100 नए बायोगैस प्लांट स्थापित होंगे। उन्होंने कहा है आज जनपद बदायूं में कम्प्रेस्ड बायो गैस के नए प्लांट का उद्घाटन होने जा रहा है और राज्य के 8 अन्य जनपदों में कम्प्रेस्ड बायो गैस के नए संयंत्र का शिलान्यास भी किया जाएगा। अब तक 37 प्लांट की स्थापना के लिए भूमि चयन आदि की प्रक्रिया परी हो चुकी है। इसके लिए मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ से बड़ा सहयोग मिल रहा है। बदायूं में कम्प्रेस्ड बायो गैस प्लांट के लोकार्पण समारोह से पूर्व लखनऊ में पत्रकारों को संबोधित करते हुए केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि पिछले सात साल में मुख्यमंत्री योगी के नेतृत्व में उत्तर प्रदेश ने बीमारू स्टेट की श्रेणी से आगे बढकर हर सेक्टर में शानदार काम किया है। बदायं में लोकार्पित



होने जा रहे प्लांट की विशेषताओं की चर्चा करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि करीब 135 करोड़ रुपयों के निवेश से 50 एकड़ में विकसित इस प्लांट में हर दिन लगभग 14 टन कम्प्रेस्ड बायो गैस का उत्पादन होगा। यह बायो गैस पराली के निदान के लिए भी अत्यंत उपयोगी है। इससे पहले, मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के %वेस्ट टू वेल्थ की परिकल्पना के अनुसार बायो गैस बेहतरीन विकल्प है। यह एनसीआर में स्मॉग की समस्या का समाधान तो है ही किसानों की आमदनी बढ़ाने का माध्यम भी है। पत्रकार वार्ता में भारत सरकार के पेट्रोलियम सचिव पंकज जैन ने कम्प्रेस्ड बायो गैस प्लांट की स्थापना के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा दिये जा रहे प्रोत्साहन की जानकारी दी। यूपी सरकार की बायो पयल पॉलिसी की सराहना करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि यूपी की जैव ईधन नीति के तहत बायो एनर्जी प्लांट की स्थापना के लिए 20 करोड़ रुपये तक का अनुदान दिए जाने की व्यवस्था है। यूपी में इस सेक्टर में बेहतर करने के लिए अनुकृल अवसर है।