

## **CENTRE PLANS POLICY ON COAL GASIFICATION**

New Delhi, Dec. 14: A draft policy for the development of underground coal gasification from unexplored coal and lignite bearing areas in the nation has been formulated, Parliament was informed on Monday.

"With the objective to develop UGC, the ministry of coal has formulated a draft policy for UGC for approval of the government," coal and power minister Piyush Goyal said in a reply to Rajya Sabha. UGC is a clean coal technology and provides for extracting energy from the coal seams which cannot be mined through known mining technology.

Successful testing and implementation of this technology in Indian conditions would help in providing energy security, he said.

Further, Mr Goyal said, UGC is one of the notified end uses for allotment of coal blocks through bidding. Five lignite blocks and two coal blocks have been identified earlier for UGC purposes. Besides, CIL has also identified two coal blocks or UGC in their command area, the minister added.

The government had earlier said that India should explore using coal gasification as feedstock to produce chemicals and petrochemicals.

— PTI //