

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಕುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT:

Central Cabinet

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER:

The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 09/01/2020

## Cabinet nod for FDI in coal mining

Ordinance to ease rules approved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an ordinance to amend two laws to ease mining rules, enabling foreign direct investment (FDI) in coal mining.

At a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the ordinance to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, was approved, Parliamentary Affairs and Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi said at a press conference.

Mr. Joshi said the "historic" decision would boost the ease of doing business and increase growth avenues for coal mining. Coal India, he said, would be strengthened and the government was aiming to achieve production of 1 billion tonnes of coal by 2023-2024. Mr. Joshi said "end-use restrictions"

had been done away with, allowing "anyone to participate in the auction of coal blocks". The ordinance would strengthen the auction process of mines whose leases are expiring on March 31, 2020. Seamless transfer of clearances would also be facilitated, he said.

Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the steel industry would get cheaper inputs, leading to an increase in "competitiveness".

The Centre has also given in-principle approval for the strategic disinvestment of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL), India's largest exporter of saleable pig iron, by allowing its public sector shareholders to sell their stakes in the company. The strategic buyer will be identified through a two-stage auction procedure.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Cabinet gives nod for FDI in coal mining

According to an official statement, the decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, held on Wednesday.

"It is also expected that the successful strategic buyer may bring in new management/technology/investment for the growth of the company and may use innovative methods for the development of the business operations of the company, which may generate more employment opportunities," it added.

NINL is a joint venture company, with the main

promoter being state-owned Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC), which holds 49.78% of its stock.

Apart from MMTC, the other companies which will offload their stock are two PSUs of the Odisha government - Odisha Mining Corporation (20.47%) and Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation (12%) - apart from Central government PSUs, National Mineral Development Corporation (10.1%), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (0.68%) and MECON (0.68%).