

Tata Steel 'keen on going nuclear' to make green metal

POWER PLAN. Steel giant mulls setting up 200 Bharat Small Reactors of 220 MW each

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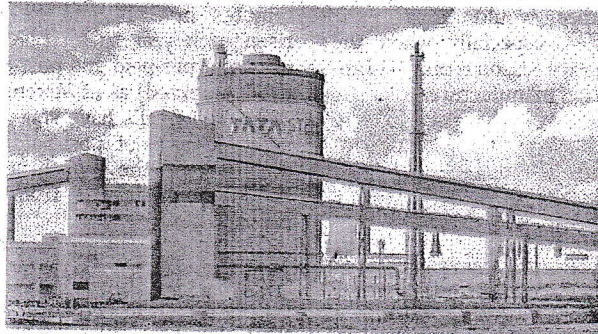
Tata Steel is looking at the possibility of going nuclear for producing green steel.

According to sources in the atomic energy sector, the steel giant is looking at the feasibility of putting up about 200 Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) of 220 MW each, totalling about 45 GW of capacity.

The sources say Tata Steel is likely to use the electricity from the BSRs in electrolyzers to produce green hydrogen and use that gas to replace coking coal in the production of steel.

Tata Steel declined to comment, saying, "There is nothing to talk about the subject now."

Sources said that Tata Steel, whose four India plants have a combined capacity to produce 21.6 million tonnes of steel a year, is keen on producing green steel, even though it does not export much to Europe, where the 'carbon border adjustment mechanism' (CBAM) is likely to kick in from January 1, 2026.



EXIT COKING COAL. Sources said electricity from the BSRs will be used in electrolyzers to produce green hydrogen and the gas will replace coking coal in the production of steel

The CBAM is a duty levied on certain imported goods, including steel, for the greenhouse gas emissions that may have happened during their production so that Europe's domestic producers are not disadvantaged *vis-a-vis* imports.

Sources said that other steel companies are also looking at BSRs but Tata Steel is "quite keen".

BSR PARTNERSHIP

To allow the private sector own and operate nuclear power plants, the Atomic Energy Act would need to be amended. It is learnt that the government is looking to do

government would part with the private sector setting up BSRs. While world is talking about 'small modular reactors', India lies it is already an expert that area as the government owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India has for decades been running 15 pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) of 220 MW each.

Recently, RB Grover, Member of the Atomic Energy Commission, told media that the 220 MW PHWRs were being modified and would be called BSRs and the technology would be licensed to the private sector.

that. In her Budget speech of July 23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the