

Five firms make the PLI cut to manufacture H₂ vehicles

Ashok Leyland, Eicher, Pinnacle, Tata, and Booma get approval

NITIN KUMAR

New Delhi, 22 March

The government selected five companies — Ashok Leyland, Eicher Motors, Pinnacle Mobility, Tata Motors, and Booma Innovative — for manufacturing hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles under the ₹25,938-crore production-linked incentive scheme for the automobile and auto component industry

(PLI-Auto), Minister of State for Heavy Industries Krishan Pal Gurjar has informed the Lok Sabha.

“Several automobile companies have expressed their interest to set up their manufacturing units and invest in India for hydrogen fuel cell-powered automobiles. So far, five companies have been approved under the PLI Auto scheme,” Gurjar said in a written reply on Tuesday.

The five original equipment

manufacturers (OEMs) are part of the Ministry of Heavy Industries’ (MHI’s) 20 approved applicants for its Champion OEM Incentive scheme.

The ₹25,938 crore PLI-Auto scheme has two components — Champion OEM and Component Champion. The Champion OEM Incentive scheme is a sales value-linked scheme, applicable to battery electric vehicles and hydrogen

fuel cell vehicles of all segments.

According to the MHI data, the PLI-Auto scheme has attracted a proposed investment of ₹74,850 crore, against the estimated target of investment ₹42,500 crore over a period of five years. Of this, a proposed investment ₹45,016 crore is from approved applicants under the Champion OEM Incentive Scheme and ₹29,834 crore from approved applicants under the Component Champion Incentive Scheme.

While informing Parliament about the research and development in the hydrogen blending initiative, the minister said, according to information received from the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) Pune, ARAI and Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) had extensively worked on hydrogenated CNG (HCNG) engine development for the finalisation of hydrogen blend in CNG and developed HCNG engines for Indian OEMs.