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CIL's plantation drive makes it near zero-emissions company

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PUBLIC SECTOR MINER Coal
India's plantation drive on
over 1,300 hectare in FY22 is
likely to push India further

towards its net zero emissions
goals with the miner already
bringing down its carbon
emissions level to 0.65% of
India's total carbon-di-oxide
(CO₂) emission of 2,616 mil-
lion tonne (MTs) during FY20.

The data has come from
Global Carbon Project: Carbon
Di-Oxide Information Analy-
sis Centre, of the US, a CIL
executive said.

In FY21 the company had
targeted plantation on 739

hectare to put a green cover to
its mining areas. But it achieved
116% of its target covering 862
hectare, 6% more than it cov-
ered in FY20. In FY20 CIL cre-
ated green cover on 813
hectare, which brought it closer

to becoming a zero carbon
emission company. So the cur-
rent fiscal's target of covering
1,300 hectare is likely to put the
company into the zero carbon
emission category since the
green coverage would go up by

more than 50% this fiscal.

The company has created
2.4 hectare of plantation for
every hectare of land used for
mining. For every tonne of coal
produced, 30 kg carbon goes
into the air.

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Coal India carbon emissions less than 1% of India's in FY20

NEW DELHI, May 12 (PTI)

STATE-OWNED Coal India Ltd on Wednesday said that the PSU accounted for only 0.65 per cent of the country's total carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of 2,616 million tonnes (MT) during FY2019-20. Coal India (CIL) said that this is according to the data sourced from Global Carbon Project: Carbon Di-Oxide Information Analysis Centre, of the US.

A back-of-the-envelope calculation estimates 30 kg of CO₂ emission for every tonne of coal produced. With CIL's opencast output at 572 MT, during FY20, a little over 17 MT of CO₂ equivalent was emitted out of CIL's coal mining operations, compared to the country's total of 2,616 MT. Pollution arising out of coal mining operations is not much compared to burning of the fossil fuel, from where major emissions emanate. "Mining is a conflict with nature which impacts environment to a cer-



tain degree. The effort is to cap it to the minimum. We are committed to fulfilling our part in reduction of GHG emissions in the nationally determined contributions (NDC) submitted to UN. Offsetting the carbon footprint to a bare low is a continuous activity for us," CIL said.

To balance the CO₂ emission, CIL has taken up large scale plantation in its mining areas where the green cover increased to 862 hectares, in FY'21. This is 116 per cent achievement of the targeted 739 hectares and six per cent more compared to 813 hectares of 2019-20. So far, CIL has creat-

ed 2.4 hectares of plantation for every one hectare of land used for mining. For the ongoing fiscal, the company is targeting plantation over 1,300 hectares, a jump of more than 50 per cent compared to FY'21. CIL evaluates the success of its land reclamation through satellite surveillance, it said adding that 52 opencast projects, each, producing more than 5 million cubic metres of coal and overburden (OB) combined per annum are monitored every year.

Projects below that mark are monitored once every three years. For FY21 the 52 OCPs reclaimed close to 64 per cent of the total excavated area limiting the mining area at 36 per cent.

For FY22, CIL has drawn up plans to add 26 more open cast projects (OCP) that produce 5 M.Cu.M of coal and OB under the ambit of annual satellite surveillance, raising the total to 78. Over the last four financial years, CIL has planted 78 lakh saplings.