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CIL's coal grades improve 64% in April-Oct

After consumer complaints, CIL now allows quality testing via third-party

SHOBHA ROY

Kolkata, December 20

Coal India Ltd's (CIL) emphasis on ensuring better quality coal supplies seems to be yielding results with the State-owned miner registering an improvement in grade conformity in coal supplies to 64 per cent during April-October 2021 as against 59 per cent during same period last year.

The improvement is based on an analysis conducted by independent third-party sampling agencies. Grade conformity refers to the supply of declared grade of coal and above it.

"Due to continuous conscious measures towards quality maintenance, the gap between the weighted average of declared and analysed GCV of coal reduced remarkably to 23 kcal/kg in FY21 from 61 kcal/kg in FY20," the report said.

The improvement in grade conformity comes at a time

when there have been contentions of fall in quality of coal supplies by a certain section of CIL's customers.

"Monsoon rains every year cause a certain degree of deterioration in coal quality due to surface moisture of coal. Loading through payloaders may lead to little amounts of mud and slurry getting in due to soggy of the ground. But it does not mean that CIL mixes rocks in its supplies. Isolated incidents, if any, are dealt with the severity they deserve," a senior company official said.

Provisional bills

The notion that customers were not receiving the grade of coal that they pay for was misconceived, as no customer suffers financial loss arising out of quality mismatch between the declared dispatched grade and the analysed grade, he added.



Grade conformity refers to supply of declared quality and above

As per terms of the fuel supply agreement, CIL initially bills customers based on the declared grade of coal despatched. Such provisional bills are later adjusted once the quality of coal is tested and established by an authorised third party sampling agency.

Independent sampling

To allay apprehensions on quality issues, CIL customers can also opt for quality assessment of coal supplies through independent third-party sampling agencies (TPSA).

CIL has engaged two third-party sampling and testing agencies –COTECNA Inspection India and SGS India – in addition to the existing CSIR-

CIMFR and Quality Council of India. Further, the Ministry of Power has decided that Power Finance Corporation shall empanel TPS.

The agreement also has a provision for challenging the result of TPSAs, whereby the coal samples preserved are sent to the designated government referee laboratory for re-analysis as well.

In order to monitor coal quality, CIL has also launched a portal 'UTTAM' (Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal) to record the entire cycle of a sample. With the help of this portal, consumers can access coal quality information on a regular basis.

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कोल इंडिया ने थैलेसीमिया व अप्लास्टिक निमोनिया पीड़ित बच्चों के इलाज की योजना को दी मंजूरी

सांक्रोडिया : कोल इंडिया प्रबंधन ने कोयला कर्मियों के बच्चों सहित अन्य गरीब तबके को बेहतर इलाज के लिए सराहनीय कदम उठाया है। बच्चों के बीच होने वाली गंभीर बीमारी थैलेसीमिया एवं अप्लास्टिक निमोनिया के इलाज के लिए कंपनी ने एम्स, सीएमसी वेल्लौर, पीजीएम ईआईआर

■ कोल इंडिया के पहल की हो रही सराहना

चंडीगढ़, लखनऊ एसजीपीजीआई जैसे कई अस्पतालों को चिन्हित किया है। कोल इंडिया ने ईसीएल समेत सभी आनुषंगिक इकाइयों को पत्र जारी कर दिया है। ईसीएल के महाप्रबंधक (सीएसआर एवं कल्याण) मनोज कुमार सिंह ने कहा कि कोल इंडिया ने थैलेसीमिया व अप्लास्टिक निमोनिया पीड़ित बच्चों की इलाज योजना कोल इंडिया वर्ष 2017 से चल रही है परंतु जानकारी के अभाव में लोग इसका लाभ नहीं

उठा पा रहे हैं। इसी कारण कोल इंडिया प्रबंधन ने लोगों के बीच जागरूकता पैदा करने को लेकर ईसीएल सहित सभी आनुषंगिक इकाइयों में पत्र भेजा है। उन्होंने ईसीएल के भी सभी एरिया में पत्र जारी किया है ताकि एरिया स्तर पर ग्रामीण स्तरों पर भी इसका प्रचार-प्रसार हो सके। उन्होंने कहा कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में ज्यादातर गरीब तबके के लोग रहते हैं, इसलिए वहां प्रचार-प्रसार होना जरूरी है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रचार-प्रसार करने के लिए अकेले नहीं बल्कि हम सबकी जिम्मेवारी बनती है। उन्होंने कहा कि थैलेसीमिया पीड़ित बच्चों में कम हिमोग्लोबिन बनने के कारण बार-बार खून चढ़ाने की जरूरत होती है। इस तरह अप्लास्टिक निमोनिया भी बच्चों के लिए गंभीर रोग है। उक्त रोग के इलाज में बोन मैरो ट्रांसप्लांट के लिए दस लाख तक का प्रावधान है। यह फंड कोल इंडिया के सीएसआर फंड से उपलब्ध कराया जाता है।

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कोल इंडिया के कोयला ग्रेड में 64% हुआ सुधार, पिछले वर्ष से 5% ज्यादा

सिटी रिपोर्टर | धनबाद

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड द्वारा कोयले की गुणवत्ता में सुधार के प्रयासों का परिणाम बेहतर आने लगा है। अप्रैल-अक्टूबर 2021 में सीआईएल के कोयला ग्रेड में 64 फीसदी का सुधार दर्ज किया गया, जो पिछले वर्ष इसी अवधि में 59% था। यह आंकड़ा स्वतंत्र तृतीय-पक्ष नमूना एजेंसियों द्वारा किए गए विश्लेषण पर आधारित है। ग्रेड अनुरूपता का तात्पर्य कोयले के घोषित ग्रेड और उससे ऊपर की आपूर्ति से है। कोयला ग्रेड

अनुरूपता में सुधार ऐसे समय में आया है जब सीआईएल के ग्राहकों के एक वर्ग द्वारा कोयला आपूर्ति की गुणवत्ता में गिरावट की शिकायत की गई थी। शिकायतों के बाद, सीआईएल ने तीसरे पक्ष के माध्यम से गुणवत्ता परीक्षण की अनुमति दी। सीआईएल के मुताबिक हर साल मानसून की बारिश में कोयले की सतह पर नमी के कारण गुणवत्ता में कुछ हद तक गिरावट आती है। पेलोडर से लोड करने के दौरान जमीन की ढलान पर थोड़ी मात्रा में कीचड़ मिल सकता है।

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'Coal Sector Continues to be Strong and Stable'

ET EXCLUSIVE Q&A

PRAMOD AGARWAL
CHAIRMAN, COAL INDIA LTD

There is no existential threat to India's coal sector in the short term, notwithstanding COP26 commitments, Pramod Agarwal, chairman of the world's largest coal producer, Coal India Ltd told ET's Sarita C Singh in an exclusive interview. For the next two decades, India's coal sector will continue to be strong and stable as the main engine of growth in the country's energy sector. Edited excerpts

What will be the future of coal sector in India given the new commitments made by the country at COP26?

Over the next two decades at least the coal sector continues to be strong and stable with coal remaining the main engine of growth in the country's energy sector. Beyond that, coal's percentage share in the energy basket may shrink with renewables and cleaner energy sources gradually

occupying more space. Coal cannot be abruptly expunged from the country's energy system. Commitments made at COP26 are important from an environmental point of view and have to be complied with. It takes time for the renewables and other sources to reliably fill in coal's role but it is bound to happen at some point in the future. Till then, coal is here to stay and there is no existential threat to the coal sector in the short term, notwithstanding COP 26 commitments.

Is there any change in CIL's action plan/investment plan post COP26 commitment?

CIL's investment plans will be in accordance with production needs, coal demand, setting up environment-friendly seamless trans-

portation infrastructure to handle increased quantities of coal produced, constructing rail lines and procurement of technologically advanced equipment. For the fiscal in progress so far nine coal mining projects having a total capacity of 66.70 MTPA and incremental capacity of 36.70 MTPA have been cleared at an investment of around

Rs 3,200 crores, which includes one non-mining project, that is, doubling of Jharsuguda Bargarhi-Sardega rail line in IB



Valley Coalfield of MCL, Orissa. We shall draw our investment plans as we progress forward.

Post a coal crisis, How's the company gearing up for summer 2022 in the backdrop of CEA's new coal stocking norms?

The situation is much improved now with CIL boosting bulk of indigenous coal stock at power plants to around 20 MTs, sufficient for 11 days (December 15) from 7.24 MTs (October 8). If Gencos gear up through timely build-up of adequate buffer stock ahead of summer during Q4 and Q1 of succeeding fiscal it would help tide over the problem to large extent. The new coal stocking norms to be effective from April 2022 are mandatory in nature with penal clauses for non-maintenance of defined stock of coal. The newly drawn-up norms will be based on coal consumption trends and the stocking pattern would differ during different months in a year for pithead and non-pithead plants. Since the new norms are different on various factors the company is examining

them and its observations will be conveyed to CEA shortly.

By when do you see coal supplies stabilising for non-power consumers?

There has been no decrease in supplies to NPS (non-power sector) customers. We had to meet unprecedented coal demand from power sector recently. Even amidst this situation coal despatch to NPS customers during April-November '21 was 81.2 MTs marking an increase of 1.53 MTs or 2% growth over same period year ago. The growth is even higher at 14.4% compared to pre-covid period of 2019. Despatch to this sector has improved to 3.11 Lakh tonnes/day with loading of 24.4 rakes/day in December from a level of 2.71 LT/day and average loading of 14.4 rakes in October. We are now carrying a stock of around 31.3 MTs which will scale up further in Q4. Under exclusive e-auction for NPS during November we have allocated 31.64 LTs which is more than five-fold increase compared to the booked quantity of 5.97 LTs of November '20.