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'We are exploring newer avenues'

Coal India limited (CIL), the single largest coal producer in the world and a Maharatna company of the government of India, continues to augment its production with improved quality and operational cost efficiency. The national miner is also adopting an environment-friendly, mechanised, coal transportation system. **Pramod Agrawal**, chairman, CIL, shares his views on the company's road map with **Sajal Bose**



With private players eyeing for a slice of Indian coal market and dwindling demand for coal, how is Coal India coping up?

We are confident of retaining our leadership status in India's coal sector, notwithstanding the entry of private players. Our core competence, established infrastructure, streamlined operations, uniform coal quality, cost efficiency in production and reliable timely delivery of supplies helps us stay ahead of the competition. Demand slowdown is only a temporary hiatus. We are in a position to meet any rise in the demand once the appetite for coal increases.

Renewable power is the major focus area for CIL. Can you share your road plan?

Solar power generation sits high in our priority list of renewable energy sources. We have lined up solar projects to generate 3,000 MW of power by 2023-24. For this, we have set up a special purpose vehicle 'CIL Navikarniya Urja Limited', a wholly-owned subsidiary of CIL. We have also won a 100 MW solar power bid in the auction held by Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited and would aggressively participate in more such auctions in future.

CIL is foraying into newer avenues to expand its diversification portfolio. How do you plan to fund these?

While coal production remains our primary growth engine, diversification off-shoots include clean coal initiatives like coal bed

methane extraction, surface coal gasification, coal to methanol on BOO model and setting up washeries. Other than solar projects, where much of the funding would be met internally, in newer diversification ventures our funding exposure will be minimal, with no technological risk. Our prospective partners would bring most of the capital and technology.

Please tell us about your environment-friendly coal transportation measures & FMC projects...

In a major move, to reduce environmental pollution in our coal transport, we are adopting mechanised coal transportation in 35 coal mining projects, each is 4 million tpa and above under First Mile Connectivity (FMC), to eventually replace the road movement. FMC refers to transportation of coal from CIL's pitheads to dispatch points through piped conveyor system. Slowly, we are migrating away from road transport of coal. During 2019-20, CIL supplied 582 million tpa of coal of which 80 per cent was transported through non-road modes. We are investing around Rs11,500 crore for ramping up coal handling capacity of these FMC projects.

Any lesson from the way business has been done during the pandemic?

One major lesson was the imperative need for adaptability, resilience and innovation. We extended a slew of measures to customers to stimulate increase in sales, which paid results. The downtime during

the pandemic allowed us to accelerate our procurement optimisation plans. We hope to keep up the newfound agility in operations, and nimbleness in attuning to the evolving market conditions, in the post Covid scenario as well.

Coal e-auction having significantly increased, what is the importance of the platform for the company?

Apart from higher revenue-earning through premiums, importantly, e-auction provides access to small traders and customers, who do not have FSAs and linkages. Also those who have them can tap in for additional quantities through this route. To contain import dependency, we have introduced a special e-auction window in October 2020 exclusively for coal importers. An all-time high of 124 million tonnes under e-auction bookings has helped reduce coal imports considerably.

Illegal coal mining has caused revenue loss for CIL and adverse impact on environment. How do you deal with the situation?

Much of the illegal mining occurs not in the mines under CIL command, except a few particular coal fields. Basically it is a law and order problem.

Going forward, what will be your priorities?

Quite a few of them, in fact -- ramping up production, impetus on supplies of improved quantity, quality of coal and cost efficiency in operations, et al. Introducing modern technologies is also a priority area. ♦

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Coal India's offtake increased to 54 mt in April

OUR BUREAU

Kolkata, May 4

Amid the second wave of Covid-19, Coal India Ltd's (CIL) offtake increased to 54.1 million tonnes (mt) in April 2021. Of this, the power sector lifted 42.4 mt accounting for nearly 78 per cent of the total supplies. The remaining 11.7 mt was made up by the non-power sector.

Offtake could have been even higher, but the pandemic spread afflicted over 5,400 employees of the company and their wards across subsidiaries including contractual workers, slowing down the operations. Most of them are involved in the frontline output and offtake operations. Loading from private washeries, goods sheds and transport through road mode as well took a hit, said a press statement issued by CIL.

"Despite the setback, coal supplies logged a 3.3 per cent growth compared to a Covid free April of FY-20, while the growth was even higher at 6.1 per cent against April FY-19 when CIL chalked up its highest ever coal off-take of 607 mt," a senior company official said in the statement.

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Covid preparedness has been reviewed by the Chairman, CIL



Shri. Pramod Agrawal, Chairman, CIL chaired an online meeting with all subsidiaries companies to review COVID-19 preparedness of medical facilities at its hospitals across eight states of India. Chairman, CIL emphasized on revisiting emergency preparedness plans and including them in day-to-day operations to fight the resurgence of COVID-19. Shri. S. N. Tiwary, Director (P&IR), Coal India and senior medical professionals from CILHq attended the meeting from its Corporate Office in Kolkata. Director – Personnel of Coal India’s subsidiary companies and senior officials also participated in the review meeting from their respective offices.

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Edition: Bengaluru

CIL Fuel Allocation Through Spot E-auction Rises 43% in FY21

PTI

New Delhi: State-owned CIL allocated 42.51 million tonne of coal in 2020-21 under spot e-auction scheme, registering a year-on-year increase of 42.5%.

Coal India Ltd (CIL) had allocated 29.83 MT of the dry fuel in 2019-20, according to government data.

Fuel allocation by CIL under the scheme also increased to 5.30 MT in March, from over 2.532 MT in the corresponding month of 2019-20, it said.

Coal distribution through e-auction was introduced with a view to providing access to coal for such buyers who are not able to source the dry fuel through the available institutional mechanism, according to CIL website.

The purpose of e-auction is to provide equal opportunity to all intending buyers for purchasing coal through single window service.

CIL, which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, is eyeing one billion tonne of production by 2023-24.

The state-owned firm will pump over ₹1.22 lakh crore in projects related to coal evacuation, exploration and clean coal technologies by 2023-24 to achieve the target.

Date: 10-05-21

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Kolkata

CIL to Continue Fuel Supply Under Import Substitution in Current Fiscal

New Delhi: State-owned CIL will continue with the supply of coal to the power plants under import substitution in the ongoing fiscal. The development assumes significance in the wake of the PSU earlier stating its drive for coal import substitution has gained tempo with consumers opting for about 90 million tonnes (MT) of indigenous coal in FY'21.

"The issue of supply coal in the FY 2021-22 was deliberated during the sub-group meeting...chaired by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal, wherein it has been decided to continue the supply of coal to the power plants under import substitution mechanism for FY 2021-22," Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a notice.

CIL further said that the PSU and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) have been directed to put notice asking to submit the requirement for 2021-22.

"Power utilities desirous of procuring domestic coal in lieu of imported coal are hereby requested to submit their requirements of coal for FY 2021-22," the notice said.

It further said that the supply of coal to power plants would be made strictly as per availability and they will have to honour their fuel supply agreement (FSA) commitment before lifting coal under import substitution.

"Such power plants will also be required to submit an undertaking mentioning that they will not import/curtail the import of coal for the financial year 2021-22," the notice said.

On September 19, 2018 coal and power secretaries held a meeting and on the same day the meeting of subgroup also took place wherein, the matter of supply of domestic coal as import substitution was recommended to bring the level of import dry fuel for blending purposes to the level of zero.

Accordingly, the maharatna firm has taken all possible efforts to achieve the same.

The matter was further discussed by the coal and power ministries last year and accordingly dry fuel is being supplied to the power plants having FSA under import substitution as per their requirement depending on its availability.

Earlier, CIL said that it has provided additional coal supply in the country during 2020-21, which prompted customers to opt 90 million tonnes of domestic coal instead of importing it from abroad.

Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output. —PTI

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कोल इंडिया सिमडेगा में लगायेगा ऑक्सीजन प्लांट

कोरोना की तीसरी लहर के मुकाबले की कवायद तेज तैयारी में जुटा जिला प्रशासन

सन्मार्ग संवाददाता

सिमडेगा : जिले में कोरोना संक्रमण के दुसरी लहर की प्रचण्ड रूप ने सभी को परेशान कर दिया। इसी बीच इस संक्रमण के तीसरे लहर के भी आगमन की सुचना ने प्रशासन के परेशानी पर और जोर डाल दिया है। सिमडेगा में दुसरी लहर के कहर को देखते हुए जिला प्रशासन दुसरे लहर से लड़ते हुए तीसरी लहर को संभालने के लिए अभी से कवायद शुरू कर दी है। सिमडेगा में बन रहे तीन जगहों पर पाइपलाइन ऑक्सीजन सप्लाई के साथ तीन डेडिकेटेड कोविड अस्पताल। कोरोना की इस दुसरी लहर की भयावता को देखते हुए सिमडेगा जिला प्रशासन मुस्तैदी के साथ आने वाले तीसरे लहर से लड़ने की भी तैयारी शुरू कर दी है। दरअसल



दुसरी लहर का प्रवेश तब हुआ जब इसके लिए सरकार से लेकर आम जनता तक तैयार नहीं थी। यही कारण है कि दुसरी लहर ने तेजी से लोगों को अपनी चपेट में लिया। इसी बीच कोरोना के तीसरी लहर के भी आगमन की सुचना ने सरकार सहित प्रशासन को भी चौकस कर दिया है। सरकार ने घोषणा की है कि तीसरी लहर के पहले प्रत्येक जिला में ऑक्सीजन प्लांट लगेगा। वहीं दुसरी तरफ कोरोना के दुसरी लहर से

जुड़ती सिमडेगा जिला प्रशासन ने भी कोलेबिय प्रखंड, ठेठईटांगर प्रखंड सहित सिमडेगा में भी पाइपलाइन ऑक्सीजन सप्लाई युक्त डेडिकेटेड कोविड अस्पताल बनाने की तैयारी युद्ध स्तर पर शुरू कर दी है। जो इस माह के अंतिम तक पूर्ण कर लिया जाएगा। उपायुक्त सुशांत गौरव इसके लिए दिन रात लगातार तीनों जगहों पर जाकर अपने देखरेख में काम करवा रहे हैं जिससे कोई कमी नहीं रहे। ये जिला प्रशासन की मेहनत का

हीं फल है कि जिले में 11 सौ से अधिक कोरोना के एक्टिव केस हैं और यहां बेड और ऑक्सीजन की कमी किसी को नहीं हुई। प्रशासन भी से मेहनत कर रही है। उम्मीद की जा रही है कि आने वाले दिनों में बेहतर स्थिति होगी। वहीं सिमडेगा जिले में ऑक्सीजन प्लांट लगाने के लिए कोल इंडिया ने सहायता दी है। कोरोना के दुसरे लहर से जुड़ते हुए जिला प्रशासन को एक बड़ी राहत मिली। कोल इंडिया ने सिमडेगा में कोरोना फाइट के लिए बढाए हाथ और सिमडेगा को बड़ा सौगात दिया। सिमडेगा जिला में जल्द ही अपना ऑक्सीजन प्लांट बनाए जा रहे हैं। जिससे यहां बन रहे कोविड अस्पताल और आईसीयू वार्ड को फायदा मिलेगा। कोल इंडिया ने सिमडेगा को इसके लिए 99 लाख रुपए का सौगात दिया है। कोल इंडिया का यह सौगात अभी के कोरोनाकाल में जिले के लिए जीवन दायनी ऑक्सीजन से कम साबित नहीं होगा।

कोल इंडिया 2021-22 में बिजली संयंत्रों को ईंधन की आपूर्ति जारी रखेगी

नयी दिल्ली, कोल इंडिया लि. (सीआईएल) चालू वित्त वर्ष 2021-22 में आयात सीमित करने की योजना के तहत बिजलीघरों को कोयले की आपूर्ति जारी रखेगी। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी ने पूर्व में कहा था कि कोयला आयात प्रतिस्थापन यानी उसे सीमित करने का अभियान परवान चढ़ता दिख रहा है। ग्राहकों ने 2020-21 में करीब 9 करोड़ टन स्वदेशी कोयले के उपयोग का विकल्प चुना। इस लिहाज से सीआईएल का उक्त निर्णय महत्वपूर्ण है। कोल इंडिया ने एक नोटिस में कहा, कोयला मंत्रालय के संयुक्त सचिव की अध्यक्षता में उप-समूह की बैठक में वित्त वर्ष 2021-22 में कोयले की आपूर्ति के मुद्दे पर विचार किया गया। बैठक में 2021-22 के लिये आयात प्रतिस्थान व्यवस्था के तहत बिजलीघरों को कोयले की आपूर्ति जारी रखने का निर्णय किया गया। कंपनी ने कहा कि कोल इंडिया और केंद्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण (सीईए) को नोटिस जारी कर 2021-22 के लिये जरूरत के बारे में जानकारी मांगने का निर्देश दिया गया है।