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Govt to get ₹3,056 cr dividend from Coal India

KOLKATA: The Centre will receive an amount of Rs 3,056 crore as dividend from Maharatna PSU Coal India Ltd as the miner has announced an interim dividend at a rate of Rs 7.50 per share for the 2020-21 financial year, an official said. The total interim dividend outgo for Coal India will be Rs 4,622 crore after the company's board approved it, he said. "The government will get around Rs 3,056 crore as a dividend for its shareholding of 66.13 per cent in the company," the official said. In a regulatory filing, the miner said its board of directors has approved payment of an interim dividend of Rs 7.50 per share of the face value of Rs 10 for 2020-21. The company sources said the announcement of dividend payment came at a time when the miner's outstanding dues from the power sector remain at about Rs 23,000 crore. —PTI

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कोरोना काल में भी नहीं थमा कोल सेक्टर

धनबाद | विशेष संवाददाता

कोयला देश की अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। इसकी बानगी कोरोना काल में देखने को मिली।

अप्रैल माह से सभी सेक्टर थम गए लेकिन कोल सेक्टर अनवरत काम में लगा रहा। उत्पादन-डिस्पैच में थोड़ी कमी आई लेकिन पावर प्लांटों को कोयले की कमी नहीं होने दी गई। कोविड प्रावधानों के अनुरूप कोयले का खनन जारी रहा। झारखंड की एक भी

कोयला खदान कोरोनाकाल में बंद नहीं की गई। जब कोरोना के कारण लॉकडाउन था तब भी बीसीसीएल-सीसीएल की खदानों में मशीनें चलती रही। अब तो कोल सेक्टर पूर्व की स्थिति में लौटने जा रहा है। बीसीसीएल सहित कोल इंडिया की अन्य अनुषंगी कंपनियों में उत्पादन और डिस्पैच की स्थिति सामान्य होने की स्थिति में है।

आर्थिक मंदी से उबरने में भी कोल सेक्टर ने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका अदा की। कोयला कंपनियों ने अपने कर्मियों को

बोनस के रूप में दुर्गा पूजा पर लगभग डेढ़ हजार करोड़ का भुगतान किया। वहीं अधिकारियों को पीआरपी के मद में 700 करोड़ रूपए मिले। उक्त रकम से कोयला क्षेत्र की आर्थिक गतिविधियां बढ़ी। कोल सेक्टर में विभागीय कर्मियों को रोजगार से इतर ठेका कर्मियों की भी बड़ी संख्या है जो आऊटसोर्सिंग कंपनियों के माध्यम से रोजगार पाते हैं। वहीं ट्रांसपोर्टिंग सहित अन्य कार्यों में अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से भी रोजगार की काफी संभावनाएं हैं।

Money control

Coal India production rises by 18% to 47 MT in October

The increase in absolute terms was 7.4 MT, it said. With its production impeded by the COVID-19-induced slowdown during the first four months of the present fiscal, CIL started logging positive growth from August onward on monthly basis. For the first time in this fiscal, CIL posted a positive growth of 0.9 per cent in cumulative production till October so far.

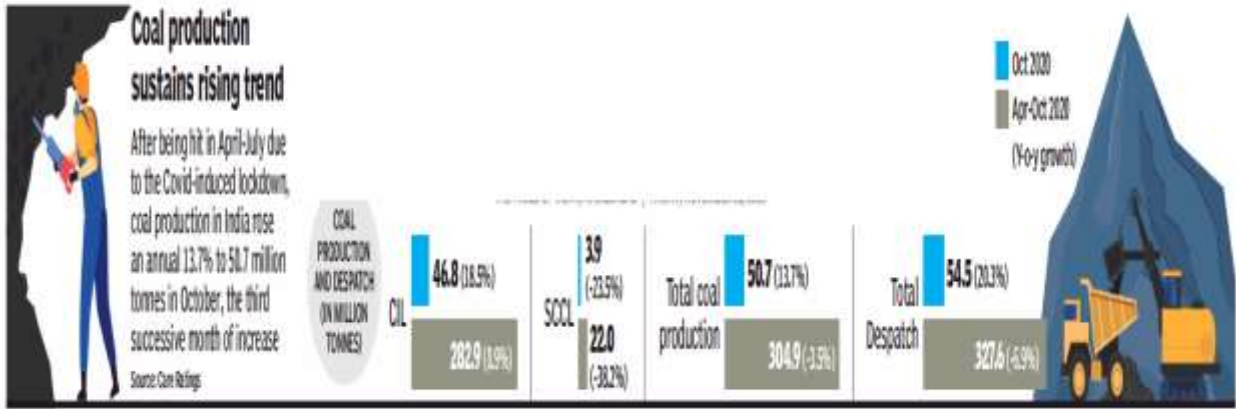
State-owned CIL said that it produced 46.8 million tonnes (MT) of coal last month, registering a growth of 18.4 per cent. [Coal India](#) had produced 39.5 MT of coal in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal, it said in a statement.

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Production during April-October was 282.9 MT which was 2.5 MT more than that during the same period last year. "Though the progressive growth in output was nominal, importantly we could wipe off the negative trend and now look forward to consolidate the positive pattern for the rest of the fiscal," a senior official of the company said.

The decline in off-take growth for the year was arrested by more than half to 3.5 per cent in October from that of 7.6 per cent in the previous month. By November, CIL hopes to neutralise the negative growth and start on the path of recovery.

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ET Q&A

PRALHAD JOSHI
UNION MINISTER, COAL

'Coal India to See Investment of ₹2 Lakh Crore in Five Years'

Coal India will invest ₹2 lakh crore in modernisation and diversification, coal minister **Pralhad Joshi** said in an exclusive interview to **Sarita Singh**. The minister said the government will launch the next tranche of commercial coal auctions with at least 10 mines in January 2021. The government will not interfere in the bidding process, he said, and it will award the blocks to successful bidders in the first tranche of auctions as early as possible. Edited excerpts:

How do you view the response to the first round of commercial coal auctions, which concluded recently. What will be the process?

Of the 38 mines auctioned, 19 clearly got good bids and only four mines got single bids. So we have a good success rate despite Covid and liquidity crunch apprehensions. Before this, in all tranches put together, 116 blocks were put up for auction and around 35 were successfully auctioned. There is a provision as far as these single-bid mines in the current tran-



che are concerned that we can put them up again for auction taking the discovered price as the base price in a month or so, after giving time to the companies to quote. Of the 38 mines, if 23 mines are done, it is almost 60% success rate.

Whatever happened in the earlier regime, I am assuring people that as far as the government of India is concerned, all the 19 blocks will be given to whoever has participated and won in the most transparent manner. We are not interfering in the process. Whoever has won, will get it.

Coal imports have gone down drastically for now, but once demand picks

up they will rise again. What is your plan?

I have told Coal India to ramp up production because they are the dominant player. Even during the Covid lockdown, we had kept enough stock. Quality-wise, too, I am taking a meeting every quarter to check slippages. By that I want to instil confidence among the users of the coal for both quality and quantity - quantity for availability and quality so that consumers get whatever they pay for.

We are going to invest ₹2 lakh crore in Coal India in the next five years. Of this, ₹1.2 lakh crore will be spent towards coal infrastructure only. We are presenting it to the prime minister but in principle it has been accepted. The investment will be for modernisation, purchase of new machineries, purchase of new technology, clean coal technologies, like coal gasification liquefaction, and new blocks.

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