

Date: 06-04-21
Publication: The Financial Express
Edition: Mumbai

INTERVIEW: PRAMOD AGRAWAL, CMD, Coal India

‘Commercial mining by pvt players won’t destabilise CIL’

The just-concluded fiscal year was a challenging one for Coal India CIL), with the company having to cope with demand decline and import substitution, even as it faced issues with coal quality. CIL chairman and managing director Pramod Agrawal speaks to Indronil Roychowdhury about how the company managed the difficulties, and the challenges awaiting it in the new fiscal year. Excerpts:

How has CIL recast its business in the past year, given the pandemic?

We responded to the situation with resilience. During the lockdown, we felt a decline in demand, but were still required to stimulate supplies through out-of-the-box measures. We focused on increasing e-auction volumes, rather than premiums. We have closed the year with 124 million tonne of e-auction allocation.

We relaxed conditions to attract customers: the trigger

level or minimum assured quantity has been raised from 75% to 80%, coal up to 120% of annual contracted quantity (ACQ) has been offered. ACQ was raised to up to 100% of normative requirement for power sector consumers. Also, power sector FSAs have been signed without link to performance, and flexible lifting was allowed for non-regulated sectors throughout the year. All these measures kept our sales buoyed to some extent.

Do you think commercial mining will bring an end to CIL’s monopoly?

The apprehension that commercial coal mining would destabilise CIL is unfounded. Under Atmanirbhar Bharat, the aim behind the entry of private players in commercial mining is



to ramp up indigenous coal output and meet the domestic demand in a self-reliant manner by reducing import dependency and forex outgo. In that sense, it is a welcome move. I do not see any conflict between CIL and private players.

We continue to operate within our own competent sphere, maintaining our leadership status. Key issues that will

help us stay ahead are established infrastructure, streamlined operations, uniform coal quality, cost efficiency and reliable, timely delivery.

The government’s focus has been on import substitution. How has CIL helped this initiative?

CIL has enabled import reduction to the tune of 90 MT in FY21. We opened a new auction window in October exclusively for customers importing coal and booked 7.5 MT. We allowed our coal companies to sign MoUs, under import substitution, with 17 power plants linked with them. Under this, over 11 MT was offered. We offered 9.7 MT of additional coal to state and central generating companies under a flexi-utilisation policy, enabling

them to reduce coal imports. Additional coal was offered to the non-regulated sectors against fuel supply agreements of up to 100% of annual contracted quantity. Of course, freight cost increase and rise in international prices could be supplementary factors that helped curb imports.

What are the challenges awaiting in the new fiscal?

The major near-term challenge is depleted demand for coal. Wage revision of non-executive employees will be effective from July 1, but large manpower reduction will have a stabilising effect and so the wage bill effect may be flat. Increasing outstanding receivables is also a big challenge to us, though there is no debt risk since most of it is from Central and state gencos.

Date: 09-04-21
Publication: The Times of India
Edition: Kolkata

Coal India posts 109% jump in capex to ₹13k cr in FY'21

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Maharatna PSU Coal India (CIL) has more than doubled its capital expenditure to Rs 13,115 crore in FY'21 compared to its previous fiscal. Against the capex of Rs 6,270 crore in FY'20, CIL clocked 109% growth amid the Covid slump.

"CIL has never registered such a capex growth. This comes at a time when the Centre has advised CPSEs (central public sector enterprises) of the country to scale up their expenditure to boost the economy. This also marks the state-owned coal miner's all-time high capital expenditure, breaching the ramped up capex target of Rs 13,000 crore, achieving 101% of the revised target," the company has said.

CIL's original sanctioned capex budget was Rs 10,000 crore for FY'21. However, the government assigned CIL a 130% achievement of the budgeted target the company to be evaluated as 'Excellent' under this specific parameter in MoU rating. This prompted CIL, for

ALL-TIME HIGH

the first ever time, to tweak up its capex budget by 30% and revise it to Rs 13,000 crore.

"The entire capital expenditure was funded through internal resources. Capex growth during all the four quarters of FY'21 was significantly higher compared to previous year. Progressive up to December'20 also our capex utilisation was more than what

was mandated by the Ministry of Coal," said a senior official of the company.

At CIL, procurement of heavy earth-moving machinery at Rs 3,453 crore topped the list of capex heads for FY'21, followed by land at Rs 2,470 crore, yet another important capital of CIL. Capex in joint ventures, in proportion to CIL's shareholding, like Talcher Fertilizers and Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan, accounted for Rs 2,194 crore.

CIL's coal evacuation initiatives which include setting up of coal handling plants, silos and constructing sidings accounted for Rs 1,398 crore. Construction of rail corridors and railway lines summed up to Rs 1,166 crore, while the rest was made up by other heads.

Date: 10-04-21
Publication: Business Standard
Edition: Lucknow

CIL firms up ₹40,000-crore coal evacuation plan

SHREYA JAI
New Delhi, 9 April

In a bid to give a fillip to the Centre's Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme, Coal India (CIL) has drafted plans to ramp up domestic coal evacuation facilities at a cost of ₹40,000 crore.

The miner will execute 35 projects to improve first-mile connectivity and coal handling plants as well as create more rail lines and sidings.

Coal handling capacity of these 35 projects is estimated to be close to 405 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) by FY24. Each of the mining projects would have production capacity of 4 mtpa and above.

"As of now, three of the projects have already been commissioned. Of the remaining 32 projects, 29 have



been awarded and are at various stages of construction. Tenders were opened for the remaining three and are under scrutiny," said a senior CIL executive.

In June last year, the finance min-

ister — under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package of ₹20 trillion — allocated ₹50,000 crore for creating coal evacuation infrastructure. It included ₹18,000 crore for mechanised coal transport. The move was in line with the Centre's efforts to bring down coal imports.

Under phase-I of the first-mile connectivity or transport of coal from mine's end to dispatch points, CIL will increase rail connectivity projects to 24. They are 11 currently. These points would also have coal handling plants at mines with rapid loading systems.

In the second phase, CIL will set up 14 more first-mile connectivity projects.

On Friday, Mahanadi Coalfields, one of the subsidiaries of CIL, inau-

gurated its 10th railway siding at Talcher Coalfields in Odisha.

The company said it will enhance the depth capacity of the mine to 4 mtpa.

"CIL is constructing 21 greenfield and brownfield railway sidings in four of our subsidiaries in addition to 132 operational sidings for dispatching coal to consumers. The company is also funding construction of 12 rail line projects. The dovetailing of existing and new rail sidings with a rapid loading system will help improve loading quantity in future," said a senior executive of CIL.

CIL is currently increasing the capacity of two key rail lines — Jharsuguda-Sardega in Odisha and Tori-Shivpur in Jharkhand.

Along with this, it is also planning to construct the Shivpur-Kathautia rail link through a joint venture for transporting coal through the Kathautia-Koderma circuit in Jharkhand.

A Sardega-Pelma line of about 30 kms is proposed to be constructed through a new rail joint venture. CIL said this will enhance integrated coal evacuation arrangements for both Mand-Raigarh and Basundhara coalfields in Odisha.

"The proposed rail link will be a game changer in traffic movement from this area as it bypasses the congested Howrah-Mumbai trunk route and Bilaspur to Pendra Road branch. This link provides an alternative traffic route and reduces travel distance by 75 kms," said the executive.

Date: 11-04-21
Publication: Dainik Bhaskar
Edition: Ranchi

कोल इंडिया की कंपनियों को मिला एक्सीलेंट का दर्जा

रांची | वेस्टर्न कोल फील्ड्स लिमिटेड को छोड़ कोल इंडिया की अन्य अनुषंगी कंपनियों को एक्सीलेंट का दर्जा मिला है। लोक उद्यम विभाग ने सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों की मेमोरेंडम ऑफ अंडरस्टैंडिंग रेटिंग जारी कर दी है। भले ही वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड को एक्सीलेंट का दर्जा नहीं मिला है, लेकिन ओवर ऑल कोल इंडिया को एक्सीलेंट का दर्जा दे दिया गया है। रेटिंग के अनुसार भारत कोल कोकिंग लिमिटेड पहले नंबर पर है। दूसरे नंबर पर ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड और तीसरे नंबर पर सीसीएल है। वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड को वेरी गुड का दर्जा मिला है।

कोयला उत्पादन बढ़ाने में लगी सीआईएल

श्रेया जय

नई दिल्ली, 11 अप्रैल

केंद्र सरकार की आत्मनिर्भर भारत योजना को गति देने के लिए कोल इंडिया (सीआईएल) ने घरेलू कोयला उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए 40,000 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजनाएं विकसित करने पर काम कर रही है।

खनन कंपनी शुरुआती कनेक्टिविटी और कोयला हैंडलिंग संयंत्र में सुधार के लिए 35 परियोजनाओं पर काम कर रही है, जिनमें ज्यादा रेल लाइनें बनाना भी शामिल है।

इन 35 परियोजनाओं की कोयला हैंडलिंग की क्षमता वित्त वर्ष 24 तक अनुमानित रूप से सालाना 40.5 करोड़ टन होगी। हर खनन परियोजना की उत्पादन क्षमता 40 लाख टन सालाना और इसके ऊपर होगी।

सीआईएल के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा, 'अब तक इनमें से 3 परियोजनाएं शुरू हो चुकी हैं। शेष 32 परियोजनाओं में

बुनियादी ढांचे पर 40,000 करोड़ रुपये खर्च होंगे

■ कनेक्टिविटी और कोयला हैंडलिंग में सुधार की 35 परियोजनाओं पर चल रहा काम

■ परियोजना में रेल लाइनें बनाने का काम भी शामिल



से 29 का आवंटन हो चुका है और वे निर्माण के विभिन्न चरणों में हैं। शेष 3 के लिए निविदा की जांच चल रही है।'

पिछले साल जून महीने में वित्त मंत्री ने 20 लाख करोड़ रुपये के आत्मनिर्भर भारत अभियान पैकेज के तहत 50,000 करोड़ रुपये का आवंटन कोल इवैकुएशन इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर तैयार करने के लिए किया था। इसमें मशीनों से कोयले की दुलाई के

लिए 18,000 करोड़ रुपये आवंटन शामिल है। यह कदम कोयला आयात कम करने की सरकार की कवायद का हिस्सा है।

पहले चरण के तहत शुरुआती कनेक्टिविटी या कोयला खदान से लदान के केंद्र तक पहुंचाने की सुविधा विकसित करने के लिए सीआईएल रेल कनेक्टिविटी परियोजनाएं बढ़ाकर 24 करेगी। यह अभी 11 हैं। इन केंद्रों पर कोयला हैंडलिंग संयंत्र भी होंगे,

जिससे तेजी से लोडिंग हो सके। दूसरे चरण में सीआईएल 14 और शुरुआती कनेक्टिविटी परियोजनाएं स्थापित करेगी। शुक्रवार को सीआईएल की सहायक इकाई महानदी कोलफील्ड्स ने ओडिशा के तलचर कोलफील्ड्स में 10वें रेलवे साइडिंग का उद्घाटन किया। कंपनी ने कहा कि इससे खदान की लदान क्षमता बढ़कर 40 लाख टन हो जाएगी। सीआईएल के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा, 'सीआईएल हमारी 4 सहायक इकाइयों में 21 नई और पुरानी रेलवे साइडिंग बना रही है, जो 132 परिचालन वाली साइडिंग के अतिरिक्त है। इससे ग्राहकों को कोयले की लदान करने में सहूलियत बढ़ेगी। कंपनी 12 रेल लाइन परियोजनाओं के लिए भी वित्तपोषण कर रही है। मौजूदा रेल साइडिंग में सुधार और नए के निर्माण से तेजी से लोडिंग की सुविधा मिल सकेगी और भविष्य में लोडिंग की मात्रा में सुधार होगा।'