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Coal minister Pralhad Joshi tells TOI there is 'no plan to phase out coal as India needs affordable energy for economic growth. India will continue to ramp up coal production, with output topping 1.5 bn tonne by 2040', **P 24**

'Will need coal despite green energy push'

Power minister Pralhad Joshi says 'net zero' doesn't mean not producing emission, but it is about absorbing whatever is being emitted. In an interview to TOI's Sanjay Dutta, Joshi said India is working towards building that capacity as the country will need coal in spite of the thrust on renewables. Excerpts from the interview:

How difficult is it being the coal minister when the world is clamouring for phasing out the dry fuel?

■ My paramount job is to ensure India's energy security. Our emission is a third of the major economies. No doubt, we will do more renewables. But our energy requirement will grow manifold. The PM is very clear that we must save the world and we will sacrifice whatever we have to for this. We will arrest our emission, but we will use our natural resources for energy security.

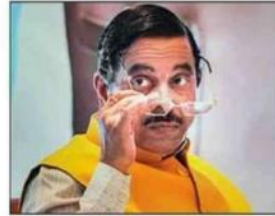
So, coal will remain the mainstay of our energy basket?

■ Why only coal. As the environment minister (Bhupender Yadav) has clearly told COP27, we must talk about all fossil fuels. Of course, we will meet 50% of our power requirement from renewables by 2030. But our electricity demand

will also rise. So, for the remaining 50%, we must use fossil fuel. Net zero does not mean we will not produce emission. It means we absorb whatever we emit. The key question is how we absorb the emission. We are working towards building that capacity with aggressive plantation, coal gasification and using mine water for plantation, irrigation and drinking purposes. These are to reduce the emission.

What is the growth trajectory you have set for coal production?

■ Why only us? If you look around, coal is making a comeback everywhere. Our electricity demand will double by 2040. As I explained, even after producing 50% power from renewables, we need coal to meet the remaining half of the demand. Last year, our total dispatch was



PTI

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817 million tonne (mt). In 2014, it was 572 mt. This year production will be almost double that of 2014 at 900 million tonne. I am confident we will reach one billion tonne production by 2023-24 and Coal India will reach that mark by 2025-26. Our estimate is that our requirement by 2040 will be about 1.5 billion tonne.

State generation companies have run up huge outstanding bills against Coal India. Do you think the power sector reforms have neglected the issue of ensuring timely payment to fuel suppliers?

■ I don't feel it has been neglected. I feel more thrust is required. We are discussing with the power ministry to mandate timely payment for fuel in the reforms they are bringing. The state governments also must consider that this is not a sustainable situation. This is a result of the freebie culture. We cannot continue with it. We did not raise prices when global prices went up to Rs 14,000-16,000 per tonne; we continue to sell at Rs 1,800 per tonne.

What about non-coal mining reforms?

■ We have brought about sea change and simplified the process, which has enabled us to auction 102 mines of various minerals in 15 months. Today mining accounts for 0.9% of GDP. Our target is to make mining account for 2.5% of GDP.

Date - 17-11-2022

Publication - Financial Express

CIL expects 50 million tonne sales through e-auction in H2FY22

FE BUREAU

Kolkata, November 16

STATE-RUN COAL India expects around 50 million tonne sales through its e-auction platform in the second half of this fiscal.

The coal miner had sold around 30 million tonne through the e-auction platform during the first half.

"Already we have done 30 mt in two quarters. In the third and fourth quarters another 50 mt should be there. I won't be able to commit anything, but it will be more than what we have done," CIL chairman Pramod Agrawal told reporters on the sidelines of the Global Mining Summit 2022, organised by CIL.

In the last fiscal, e-auction volume stood at 108 million tonne.

In the second quarter of this fiscal, Coal India had sold 10.36 million tonne through e-auction and the average realisation was ₹6,061 per tonne. Realisation from sales of coal under Fuel Supply Agreement was ₹1413 per tonne from sales of 141 million tonne.



The state-run coal miner had sold around 30 million tonne through the e-auction platform during the first half of the current fiscal. In the last fiscal, e-auction volume stood at 108 million tonne

"Till this time the priority was to fulfill the need of the power sector and our production has increased this year. So, in third and fourth quarter, we will see an increase in volume of e-auction sale," Agrawal said.

According to him, the coal miner was focused on evacuation and sustainability. Production will not be a problem but evacuation will

be a challenge, he said.

"The company was investing heavily in first mile connectivity and mechanised evacuation...in three-four years most of the evacuation will be mechanised," Agrawal said.

"We have aggressively adopted digitalisation. Having online real time data can help improve productivity by 20-30%," he said.

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Publication - The Free Press Journal

CIL chief stresses on augmenting mining sector's contribution in GDP

AGENCIES / Kolkata

Coal India Limited chairman, Pramod Agarwal, on Wednesday stressed on the augmentation in the contribution of India's mining sector in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in order to achieve the goal of a \$5 trillion economy by 2030.

At the 16th CII Global Mining Summit in Kolkata on Wednesday, he said, "Ideally the contribution of the country's mining sector in the country's GDP should be 2.5 per cent to achieve that desired economic growth."

"The importance of the mining sector lies in the crucial sectors it is catering to. Hence the role of the sector in boosting the economic growth of the country cannot be undermined and hence the sector's contribution in GDP should be pushed to 2.5 per cent. For that the prime necessity is to reduce the high rate of imports in the sector," he stated.

Speaking on the occasion, Agarwal said that CIL is targeting 50 million tonnes of sales through e-auction during the second half of the current financial year of 2022-23.



He also informed that CIL had been investing substantially in mechanised evacuation and first-mile connectivity to meet the dual challenges in the areas of evacuation and production.

Identifying evacuation as a bigger challenge than production, Agarwal expressed confidence to achieve majority mechanised evacuation within the next four years.

Chairman of NMDC Limited, Sumit Deb, who was also present on the occasion, stressed on the need for strong overseas partnership in areas of exploration, research & development and extraction of minerals in order to reduce dependence on imports.

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Publication - The New Indian Express



CIL targets 50 MT sales via e-auction in second half

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

STATE-OWNED Coal India Limited (CIL) is targeting 50 million tonne sales through the e-auction route in the second half of the current financial year, said the company's Chairman Pramod Agrawal on Wednesday.

While speaking at Global Summit 2022, Agrawal said Coal India is investing heavily in the first-mile connectivity and mechanised evacuation. "In the next three-four years, most of the evacuation exercise will be mechanised," said Agrawal.

The miner had sold nearly 30 million tonnes of coal through e-auction in the first six months of the financial year 2022-23.

The company's e-auction sales were at 108 million tonnes in 2021-22. In the second quarter of the current financial year, the company had sold 10.36 million tonnes of coal via e-auction, and the average realisation was ₹8,061 per tonne.

The PSU sold 141 million tonnes of the dry fuel through the supply agreement in the three months that ended on September 30, 2022, with an average realisation of ₹1,413 per tonne.

Agarwal also stressed that the mining sector will be critical for Indian growth. Meanwhile, the company's net profit was up nearly 144% year-on-year to ₹14,878 crore. The company's profit rose due to spike in prices of coal sold through the e-auction route.

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Publication - The Telegraph



Power sector's outstanding dues to CIL decline for 3rd month in a row in Oct

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

The outstanding dues of state-run Coal India (CIL) from the power sector declined by 5 per cent on a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis to ₹13,722.31 crore in October this year from ₹14,461.31 crore at the end of September.

This is the third consecutive month of decline in the outstanding dues of the Power sector to the coal mining behemoth. CIL's average cost of production is around ₹1,310.88 per tonne.

At the end of January 2022, the dues stood at ₹15,097.01 crore, which fell consecutively during February to ₹15,037.32 crore and then to ₹12,272.41 crore in March this year.

With the peak electricity demand season beginning in April, which this year was also marked by an unusually high uptick in temperatures, the



power sector dues started inching up at ₹12,819.09 crore during the month.

The dues started inching up during May (₹13,825.20 crore), June (₹15,252.20 crore) and hit the highest so far in the current calendar year in July at ₹15,824.14 crore. The outstanding to CIL started to decline from August (₹15,143.31 crore) and continued their northward journey during the next two consecutive months.

PRODUCTION, DESPATCH
The Maharatna company's

coal production rose by 6.3 per cent y-o-y in October 2022 to 52.94 million tonnes (mt). During the first seven months of the current financial year, CIL's production of the key commodity grew 117.5 per cent on an annual basis to 351.93 mt.

The overall offtake of coal in October by the PSU major stood at 53.71 mt, a decline of almost 5 per cent y-o-y. However, during April-October of FY23, the offtake rose by around 6 per cent y-o-y to 385.70 mt. The despatch of coal to the power sector by CIL fell 4 per cent y-o-y to 45.68 mt in October 2022. For the first seven months of FY23, the despatch was up 13.1 per cent on an annual basis to 330.66 mt.

The despatch and off take of the key commodity, a mainstay of India's power generation sector, declined in October on account of lesser demand for power due to onset of winters.