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कोल इंडिया को उत्पादन लक्ष्य का भरोसा

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी कोल इंडिया आगामी महीनों में उत्पादन को और बढ़ाएगी और उसे भरोसा है कि चालू वित्त वर्ष के लिए जो उत्पादन लक्ष्य तय किया गया है वह उसे प्राप्त कर लेगी। एक बयान में कंपनी ने यह कहा। घरेलू स्तर पर 80 फीसदी कोयला उत्पादन कोल इंडिया करती है और 2022-23 के लिए उसका लक्ष्य 70 करोड़ टन कोयला उत्पादन का है। कोल इंडिया ने एक बयान में कहा कि वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 में 70 करोड़ टन कोयला उत्पादन के लक्ष्य को पाने के लिए हमें उत्पादन में 7.8 करोड़ टन की वृद्धि करनी है।

भाषा

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Coal India surpasses FY23 green cover target

COAL INDIA, the world's largest miner, which is scrambling to meet an optimistic coal production target of 700 million tonne, has said it exceeded the annual target of green coverage by mid-November.

PTI

CIL on track to hit 700 mt output target for FY23

Our Bureau
Kolkata

Coal India Ltd (CIL) has stepped up production to 400 million tonne (mt) till November 24 in the current fiscal, about 17 per cent as compared with 342 mt output in the same period last year. At the current rate, it is confident of achieving its target of producing 700 mt by the end of this fiscal.

The state-owned miner managed to hit the record time output of 400 mt almost 31 days ahead as compared to the mark achieved as on December 25 of last year, said a press statement issued by CIL.

SCALE UP PRODUCTION

“We began FY23 requiring 78 mt jump in volume terms to touch the target of 700 mt. As on November 24, the company has already achieved an increase of

nearly 58 mt. In the ensuing months, we aim to sustain the tempo and further scale up the production and feel upbeat about achieving the target,” a senior executive of CIL said in the statement.

CIL’s production peaked to 2.1 mt as on the referred date which is the highest ever recorded single day’s output till November in any fiscal.

Paving the path to increased production in the remaining months of FY23, the overburden removal (OBR) has been consistently logging an average of 5.4 million cubic metres (MCuM) per day during November till now, which is unprecedented, it said.

“With the monsoon season ended most of the mines have been dewatered. The festival season is also over. There will be greater availability of machines and manpower, leading to better production and productivity in



UNPRECEDENTED. Coal India’s production hit a record single-day output of 2.1 million tonne on November 24

the coming months,” it added.

ADDING GREEN COVER

Coal India’s plantation of 1,526 hectares (ha) as on November 15, 2022 has exceeded the FY23 annual target of 1,510 ha achieving 101 per cent target satisfaction. The increased plantation helped in creating 76,544 tons of carbon sink potential per year.

Driven up by the eco concerns and to reduce CO₂ emissions, CIL in recent years, has stepped up the efforts on greening its mining areas. The plantation area grew by 77 per cent so far as compared to close to 862 ha in FY21. In five years till FY22, 4,392 ha of greening inside the mine lease area has created carbon sink potential of 2.2 lakh-tonnes /year, it said.

Coal India to boost production; aims to achieve FY23 output target

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Coal India on Friday said it will further boost production in the coming months and is optimistic that the company will achieve the output target set for the current financial year.

Coal India (CIL), which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal production, is eyeing an output of 700 million tonnes (MT) for FY'23.

"We began FY'23 requiring 78 MT jump in volume terms to touch the target of 700 MT. As of November 24, the company has already achieved an increase of nearly 58 MTs.

"In the ensuing months we aim to sustain the tempo and



further scale up the production and feel upbeat about achieving the target," the PSU said in a statement.

Following the end of the monsoon season, most of the mines have been dewatered. The festive season is also over. There will be greater availability of machines and manpower leading to better production and productivity in the coming months, the company said.

The PSU produced 400 million tonnes (MT) of coal as on November 24 of the current financial year, registering a growth of 17 per cent.

As of November 24, 2021 CIL had produced 342 MT of coal.

The PSU said that its increased production brought down the asking annual growth rate to 6.9 per cent from 12.4 per cent at the start of the year.

Paving the path to increased production in the remaining months of the current financial year, the company's overburden removal (OBR) has been consistently logging an average of 5.4 million cubic metres (MCuM) per day during November till now.

Focus on Unlocking Underground Reserves of Coal

Expert Take



DR B VEERA REDDY

India accounts for 12.5% of global coal consumption. Close to 75% of the country's electricity generation is coal-based. India's dependence on coal will continue for a few more decades. Phasing out coal abruptly will be difficult due to the lack of cheaper and cleaner alternatives.

Despite relying on coal for 44% of its primary commercial energy need, the country has pledged to reduce its carbon intensity by 45% by 2030 over 2005 levels. The long-term goal is to achieve a net-zero carbon emissions target by 2070.

Although cleaner renewable energy sources are on the rise (96.3 billion units), coal-based power generation (64.2 BCU) will outweigh them by 5.3X in the first half of FY23.

Environmental interests, among other concerns, push Coal India Limited (CIL) to unlock its trapped underground (UG) reserves as a green mining option. If untapped, these resources would be lost forever.

In FY22, out of 422.6 million tonnes of coal mined, nearly 95%, or 397 million tonnes, was open-pit (OC) coal. The goal is to make UG production significantly supplement OC output. In tandem with zero-carbon pursuit of UG mining is also gradual by necessity.

India has huge untapped potential for UG mining, with extractable reserves beyond 500 m depth. Around 75% of the country's coal reserves are amenable to UG mining, which delivers several advantages.

UG coal is superior in quality compared with OC and reduces the import burden for higher grades of coal. UG mining is minimally invasive on land, detours land acquisition, avoiding its degradation, environmentally clean, and is socially friendly.

CIL's resolve for going deeper is to the earth is also fuelled by the need of unearthing coking coal, whose resources are scarce in the country. India imported a total of 11.7 million tonnes of this variety in FY22 at a stupendous price outlay.

The primary reason for stalling UG mining was less-incurring production due to conservative and manual operations, which leads to low productivity. Other reasons that tilted the scales in its disfavour were longer gestation period, lack of skilled labour, unavailability of indigenous equipment, and departmental production cost being high.

The silver lining is that several new mass production technologies

(MPT) are now available that make UG production economically viable and eco-friendly. In an encouraging sign, in FY22 four UG mines of SECL and one from ECL turned profitable due to the deployment of MPT.

In the future, MPT will totally replace manual and conventional mining in all UG mines of CIL. This model has been proven successful in China, the US, Australia and elsewhere.

The other catalytic factors now for unearthing the coal assets left out earlier are the availability of indigenous equipment manufacturing units and well-trained skilled labour. CIL has a vision of increasing its UG output by four folds to 300 million tonnes by FY28 in a phased manner.

By FY23, around 80 ems (environmentally and operationally flexible continuous miners suitable for Indian coal seams) will be pressed into operation, in addition to the 21 existing ones. These will have a peak production potential of 30 million tonnes/year.

In a first, punch entry will be adopted in 5 OC mines which have reached their UPL. This will be in a phased manner till FY28. Through this means, mineable coal assets can be extracted at a low cost through existing infrastructure with a low gestation period.

In an ongoing process, 50 high wall machines will be deployed in OC mines by FY28 with a projected production potential of 25 million tonnes/year. High wall is a green mining/extraction method that circumvents land acquisition and B&B issues.

Paste fill technology is yet another environment-friendly frontier which involves converting MPT with high-speed stowing technology. In contrast to conventional sand stowing, it uses fly ash to fill the void created by extracting coal from UG mines. It permits the mining of coal seams without disturbing surface features and addresses the disposal of fly ash menace as well.

For the revival of UG mining, CIL is adopting different business models like mine developers and operators and outsourcing operations. Plans are rolled out for reopening discontinued mines having estimated mineable reserves of around 600 million tonnes. These would be pursued on a revenue-sharing basis with private participation.

In the first tranche, lenders have been floated for reviving 30 mines having mineable reserves of about 300 million tonnes, of which coking coal is 200 million tonnes. Generating promising interest response has been received for 11 mines.

In India, coal's days are not numbered yet. But it must be mined with a watchful eye on the environment and economics, where UG has the potential to fulfil this mission. CIL is rooting for this strongly.

(The writer is director technical at Coal India Ltd. The views expressed are his own)

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कोल इंडिया को 70 करोड़ टन सालाना उत्पादन लक्ष्य हासिल करने का भरोसा



नई दिल्ली, 26 नवम्बर (एजेंसियां)। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी कोल इंडिया आगामी महीनों में उत्पादन को और बढ़ाएगी और उसे भरोसा है कि चालू वित्त वर्ष के लिए जो उत्पादन लक्ष्य तय किया गया है वह उसे प्राप्त कर लेगी। एक बयान में कंपनी ने यह कहा। घरेलू स्तर पर 80 फीसदी कोयला उत्पादन कोल इंडिया करती है और 2022-23 के लिए उसका लक्ष्य 70 करोड़ टन कोयला उत्पादन का है। कोल इंडिया ने एक बयान में कहा, “वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 में 70 करोड़ टन कोयला उत्पादन के लक्ष्य को पाने के लिए हमें उत्पादन में 7.8 करोड़ टन की वृद्धि करनी है। 24 नवंबर तक कंपनी उत्पादन लगभग 5.8 करोड़ टन बढ़ा चुकी है।” इसमें आगे कहा गया, “आगामी महीनों में हम इस रफ्तार को कायम रखेंगे और उत्पादन को और बढ़ाएंगे। हमें लक्ष्य हासिल होने की उम्मीद है।” कोल इंडिया ने कहा कि मानसून खत्म होने के साथ ही ज्यादातर खदानों में पानी सूख गया है, वहीं त्योहारों का मौसम भी खत्म हो चुका है। ऐसे में मशीन और मानव संसाधन की अधिक उपलब्धता होगी जिससे आगामी महीनों में उत्पादन के साथ-साथ उत्पादकता भी बढ़ेगी।

An eco-friendly drive

India opts for a change in lifestyle to protect the environment

Reduction of emissions, fight for climate change and cleaner environment are imperative for the planet's survival. So is the much-needed energy for the survival of the nations, especially developing. Both eco and energy goals have to be balanced judiciously.

India, primarily the coal-dependent energy economy, is well-insulated from the energy shock shaking the western nations. India took a stance to 'phase down' coal in COP26 at Glasgow. The country's energy equilibrium will be destabilised if coal is abruptly taken out of the equation. Coal production and demand are yet to peak in India. Yet, the country is committed to climate change with a deep-rooted conviction.

Despite relying on coal for 44 per cent of its primary commercial energy needs, India has pledged to reduce its carbon intensity by 45 per cent by 2030 over 2005 levels. The long-term goal is to achieve net-zero carbon emissions target by 2070.

As the world converges in the Sharm El-Sheikh, the Egyptian resort town, for the 27th Annual Climate Conference (COP27) amid climate concerns, India's theme is lifestyle for environment – a change in lifestyle to protect the environment.

On its part, Coal India Limited (CIL) is striving for an even balance between meeting energy needs and mitigating environmental concerns. CIL's production has reached the record high of 622.6 million tonnes (mt) in 2021-22. By making steady progress, the company is aiming to reach the current fiscal target of 700 mt. This entails a volume growth of 78 mt over last year, of which 52.3 mt was achieved till October.

In the face of increased production, CIL's focus is to be minimally invasive on the environment. Coal mining per se does not offend the environment greatly. It happens at the burning of coal and in its transportation. For environmentally clean coal transportation, CIL is pursuing first mile connectivity (FMC) – a combination of coal-handling plants and silos that mechanically load coal into rail wagons.

A first of its kind pilot study, conducted in two of CIL's large open-cast mines, through reputed research agencies NERB and CSIR, to evaluate the benefits of mechanised transportation of coal from pitheads to loading points revealed encouraging results. There was significant reduction in CO2 emissions, particulate matter, other gaseous emissions and air pollutants.

CIL is pursuing 44 FMC projects, under two phases, for eco-friendly loading of coal. Combined,



Prashant Agrawal

they have a loading capacity of 472 mt/ year, once fully operational by 2024-25. Strengthening the network further, under Phase III, 17 more FMC projects, with a loading capacity of 317 mt/ year, have been initiated to be operational by 2026-27. Carbon footprint suppression would be sizeable, when FMC projects are implemented at full capacity. CIL already has an existing FMC loading capacity of 151 mt.

Increased deployment of eco-friendly surface miners, which entail blast-free selective mining with minimal damage to environment, is another measure CIL is actively pursuing. Output through surface miners at 163 mt witnessed a sharp year-on-year growth of 28 per cent during the first half of 2022-23. It accounted for 37 per cent of CIL's total OC production during this period.

In-pit crushers already in use help reduce the movement of dumpers, minimising diesel exhaust and lessening air pollution. Ore cutting technology curtails noise and air pollution. The aging mining equipment, wherever entails replacement, is being replenished with modern, mechanised fuel-efficient fleet, which leads to energy saving.

CIL is expanding green cover in its mining areas through heightened afforestation for carbon sink. Plantation increased to 1,468.5 hectares (ha) during 2021-22, with a strong 70 per cent growth over 862 ha of 2020-21. Ending October of the ongoing fiscal year, CIL's plantation over 1,493 ha has created carbon sink potential of 74,888 Co2 tonnes/ year. During the last five years ending 2021-22, CIL's plantation over 4,392 ha inside the mine lease area created carbon sink potential of 220,000 tonnes/ year.

Under the 'net zero energy' initiative, CIL is planning to establish solar projects of 3,000 MW capacity by 2023-24. The company signed a MoU for 1,190 MW solar project with RVUNL recently – the biggest ever planned till date.

As a green mining option, CIL is also set to ramp up its UG production to steadily supplement that of OC, with a slew of technologies. Energy audits are being pursued for verification, monitoring and analysis of the use of energy. The aim is energy cost reduction.

CIL's capex is also being aggressively pushed up for long-term growth prospects. The H1 capex of ₹7,027 crore was 12 per cent more than that of the entire year's capex of 2019-20. CIL is likely to close 2022-23 with a capex of ₹16,500 crore, which would represent a 2.6x jump in a span of three years.

As long as the country needs coal, CIL will continue to mine sustainably with due regard to environment and safety.

The author is Chairman, Coal India Limited