

Coal India plans to produce sand using overburden rocks

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

State-owned Coal India Ltd intends to produce sand using overburden rocks lying at its various coal mines and the operation of five such sand plants is likely to commence by next year, the government said on Friday.

Under the 'overburden (OB) rocks-to-manufactured sand' initiative, CIL facilitates processing of waste overburden at its open cast mines.

"CIL has envisaged to process the overburden rocks for sand production in mines where OB material contains about 60 per cent sandstone by volume which is harnessed through crushing and processing of overburden," the Coal Ministry said in a statement.

PROPOSED PLANTS

Out of the five proposed plants, Ballarpur Plant of Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL) is expected to commence sand production by May.

Four plants — one each in WCL, South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) — are under different stages of tendering process.



ON TRACK

- CIL may begin operations at 5 plants by next year
- Ballarpur Plant of Western Coalfields Ltd is expected to commence sand production by May
- Four plants — one each in WCL, South Eastern Coalfields, Bharat Coking Coal and Central Coalfields Ltd — are under different stages of tendering process

To fast-track the 'OB-to-sand' initiative, CIL has prepared a model bid document for installing more such plants across subsidiaries, in which terms and conditions have been modified for wider participation.

The successful bidder will have the liberty to decide sale price and marketability of sand produced, according to the statement.

Overburden rocks are also used in levelling up land for

construction of roads and railway tracks.

WCL has sold 1,42,749 m³ of OB for road construction, formation for railways, land base levelling and other uses and earned ₹1.54 crore.

SECL has also used 14,10,000 m³ of OB for railway siding and FMC projects.

Other subsidiaries of CIL are also taking similar initiatives to utilise OB for other purposes.

Date - 28-01-2023

Publication - Business Standard

Coal India to produce sand using 'overburden' rocks

CIL intends to produce sand using overburden rocks lying at its various coal mines and the operation of five such sand plants is likely to commence by next year, the government said on Friday. Under the 'overburden (OB) rocks-to-manufactured sand' initiative, Coal India facilitates processing of waste overburden at its open cast mines. "CIL has envisaged to process the overburden rocks for sand production in mines where OB material contain about 60 per cent sandstone by volume which is harnessed through crushing and processing of overburden," the coal ministry said . **PTI**

Coal India to set up five sand production plants

PTI / New Delhi

Coal India Ltd (CIL) plans to set up five overburden (OB) to manufactured sand (M-Sand) plants between May 2023 and July 2024.

These plants would be set up by its subsidiaries namely Western Coalfields Limited, Central Coalfields Limited, South Eastern Coalfields and Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

The coal behemoth has envisaged processing the overburden rocks for sand production in mines, where OB material contains about 60 per cent sandstone by volume which is harnessed through crushing and processing of OB.

OB to M-Sand initiative of CIL entails facilitating processing of waste overburden in its open cast (OC) mines.

During opencast mining, the overlying soil and rocks are removed as waste to extract coal and the fragmented rock (or OB) is heaped in dumps.

Most of the waste is disposed



of at the surface, which occupies considerable land area and requires extensive planning and control to minimize the environmental impact of mining.

To ensure recovery of sand from waste overburden is the best out of waste product, sources said.

The five proposed plants will ensure commercial sale of produced sand, which will generate additional revenue for coal companies, they informed further.

Apart from commercial use, sand produced shall also be consumed for sand stowing in underground mines, thus enhancing safety and conservation, sources said further.

CIL to invest ₹42,600 cr for cleaner coal transport, solar

Miner works on expanding first-mile connectivity, rail lines and new solar power plants

By Anirban Ghose
@anirban_ghose

Slate-run miner Coal India Ltd (CIL) plans to invest around 142,000 crore in low-emission infrastructure for fossil fuel mining and processing to help India achieve its net-zero targets, said the company's chairman and managing director Prasad Agrawal.

Considering the growing reliance on coal use, Agrawal said CIL plans to invest 129,000 crore in first-mile connectivity (FMC) projects in three phases, including 80,500 crore in just one. Involving 50 projects, which will enable mechanised transportation of 45 million tonnes of coal. "We have invested very heavily on evacuation. Mechanised evacuation was just 130 million tonnes in Coal India till a few years back. By December 2024, it will increase to more than 550 million tonnes," he said in an interview.

In the second phase, the company will develop nine FMC projects with investments of 12,500 crore by FY22 which would handle the mechanised evacuation of 57 million tonnes of coal. Seventy more projects have been identified in the third phase which would require an investment of 111,000 crore.

FMC in fossil transportation of coal from pits where it is transported to customers. Under FMC, coal producers can get alternative transportation methods such as rail-mounted conveyor system and containerised loading on to railway coaches, to replace road transport.

The company also plans to spend about 12,000 crore in 25 building connectivity projects.

Agrawal noted that with the development of FMC, infrastructure con-



Prasad Agrawal, chairman and managing director of Coal India Ltd.

sumer belts, sites and more usage of trains will be a step towards reducing pollution, and to away with heavy reliance on trucks and roadways, which will eventually reduce air pollution.

and it will be the game-changer for managing pollution," Agrawal said.

In its efforts to diversify into newer and sustainable businesses, the company has drawn up major plans for

3,000 MW or 3 GW, which would entail a cumulative investment of about 115,000 crore by 2024.

Currently about 500 MW of solar power capacity is under construction and 90 MW is likely to come up by March-April this year, the CMD said. Out of the 3 GW, about 1.5 GW would be used for Coal India's captive consumption and the rest would be set up on land to be provided by states to Coal India. The power generated would be sold to states.

"We are targeting for 3,000 MW, out of this 1,500 MW will be in our area where it will be directly consumed by us so that our power bill goes down. We will ourselves set up power plants for the rest of 1,500 MW but in kind of shared with others. Because at the peak we consume something like 20,000 MW, which we now buy, and now we should think that purchase," Agrawal said, adding that in the process, the company would also be able to contribute more toward ESG (environment, social and governance) requirements.

"We are talking about pure play solar power plants. We are talking about investing in this because this will give us sustained revenue for quite some time," Agrawal added.

He also threw light on the company's goal of producing green, a significant step toward reducing emissions. Through coal gasification, Coal India is eyeing to produce Dimethyl ether (DME) and synthetic gas by gasification. DME can be used in LPG. That is a good replacement and usage we can use for manufacturing many things.

These two are looking at, but we are looking at the viability," he said, adding that syngas produced through coal gasification would be used to fertiliser manufacturers. anirban@anirban.com

GOING GREEN

THE company will take up nine FMC projects with investments of 12,500 crore by FY22

IT also plans to spend about 80,500 crore on 50 railway connectivity projects

THE company's target is 90% of the coal should get evacuated through mechanised routes

THROUGH coal gasification, Coal India is eyeing to produce DME and synthetic gas

"Our target is 90% of the coal should get evacuated through mechanised routes. It significantly reduces pollution. Suspended particulate pollution falls 80%. By 2020-27 it will be 90%

evacuated. Although the current installed capacity of Coal India's solar power generation is only around 10 MW, the company plans to increase this to