

Business Standard

Coal Stocks At Power Plants Up 77% Over Year

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Coal stocks at power plants peaked to 34.25 million tonnes on January 26, equivalent to 19 days' consumption, and up by 77% as against 19.36 million tonnes, equivalent to 12 days' consumption at the same time last year. Thrust has been also given to augment coal supplies to non-power sector by holding regular auction for coal linkages where the consumers have been given the flexibility to choose nearest mine, quality (grade, size) etc.

To facilitate easy availability of coal to all the sectors, Coal Companies are also offering increased coal under spot and exclusive e-auction. Union Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a reply in the Rajya Sabha. The Minister informed that various steps have been taken to ensure the easy and adequate availability of coal to every coal dependent industries/Power Sector.

Coal India arm to receive Rs 1,240 crore for 2 years to explore blocks for auction

The Centre used to provide up to Rs 250 crore for exploration of non-Coal India blocks. Following opening up commercial coal mining, the amount jumped to Rs 540 crore in 2019-20 and Rs 700 crore for 2020-21 [Debjoy Sengupta](#) | ET Bureau | February 04, 2020, 10:55 IST

New Delhi: The Centre will pay Rs 1,240 crore to [Coal](#) India's [exploration](#) arm for two years up to 2021 to explore blocks that would be auctioned to commercial coal miners, company executives said.

"In an effort to offer fully explored blocks on auctions to commercial miners, the centre has decided to nearly treble monetary allocation to the Coal India arm, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd (CMPDIL), so that it can increase its exploration acreages multiples times," a senior Coal India executive said.

The Centre used to provide up to Rs 250 crore for exploration of non-Coal India blocks. Following opening up commercial [coal mining](#), the amount jumped to Rs 540 crore in 2019-20 and Rs 700 crore for 2020-21.

"The coal ministry will provide the fund under a Central sector scheme to expedite exploration and make available blocks with necessary exploration data to the coal ministry for its development through allotment," said CMPDIL's chairman and managing director, Shekhar Saran. "This will help the country meet its energy requirement and minimise coal imports."

The ministry is also supporting other CMPDIL activities like application of drones and methane drainage from coal bed methane projects.

Saran said the company drilled 8.91 lakh meter up to December 2019 against this fiscal's target of 14 lakh meter, which it hopes to achieve.

He said CMPDI's efforts helped increase India's proven resources from 21 billion tonne in 1976 to 156 billion tonnes in 2019. Six billion tonnes of proven reserves were added until December, 2019 and another 10 billion tonnes would be added in 2019-20, he said. A total of 188 reports has also been prepared, during the year till December 2019, including 12 geological reports, 32 coal mining project reports and 42 draft environment mine planning.

Promotional exploration is underway in Nagaland, [Assam](#) under the supervision of CMPDI. In addition it signed memorandum of understandings with [Singareni Collieries Company](#) Limited and SBICAP to provide services in areas of mutual interest.

CIL looking to tap non-power sectors for incremental coal

KOLKATA: Mining major Coal India Ltd is keen to tap non-power consumers to feed its incremental production post the monsoon period, a senior company official has said.

The miner is looking to ramp up production to meet its targets for the current fiscal at a time when the economic slowdown is impacting demand for the dry fuel by power plants.

"CIL is eyeing non-power consumers for incremental coal,

as the slowdown has resulted in lower electricity demand. We are also offering some relaxation in payments and evacuation to encourage better lifting of coal," the official said. Coal despatch to the power sector in the first nine months of the current fiscal was down by 8.1 per cent at 334.27 million tonnes as against the figure in the corresponding period a year ago.

In December 2019 alone, the decline was close to 2 per cent,

officials said. Coal allotted for spot e-auction, however, was 5.07 million tonnes in December, nearly a 50-per cent jump over the same month a year ago.

The miner is banking on sectors like cement and sponge iron for incremental coal.

Coal India had set a production target of 660 million tonnes for 2019-20, but company officials said the figure is likely to be in the range of 625-635 million tonnes. PTI

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Drones to map underground fires in coal mines

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CMPDI is to procure seven drones which can fly to a height of 400 meters for more than one hour from the Centre for Aerospace Research in Chennai.

By Express News Service

RANCHI: For the first time in India, hi-tech drones loaded with mapping facility, will be used for mining activities like gauging underground fire in Jharia and also to measure overburden lying above the coal or mineral reserves in mining areas.

The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) is to procure seven drones which can fly to a height of 400 meters for more than one hour from the Centre for Aerospace Research in Chennai.

So far, these activities were being carried out through terrestrial laser technique and satellite imaging.

“We are going to procure high end drones which will be used for different purposes like laser sensing for volumetric measurement of overburden lying above a coal or mineral reserves, optical sensing for land reclamation after mining activity is completed in the area and lastly, laser sensing for identifying underground fire in Jharia,” said General Manager (Geometrics) Rajnish Kumar.

These drones, according to Kumar, will also be helpful in the efficient measurement of overburden lying above the coal or mineral reserves through laser sensing.

“Through thermal sensing, exact location of underground fire pockets in Jharia can also be found easily enabling mining officials to expedite their efforts in extinguishing it,” said Kumar.

Kumar said that each of the drones, with a capacity of lift up to 3 kg and fly for about an hour per charge, will cost about Rs 1.8 crores. “Two drones will be procured by March this year, while the others will be delivered by next year,” said Technical Secretary to Chairman and MD CMPDI, Sanjay Dubey.

