

## CIL to develop 55 new coal mines in 5 yrs

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

State-owned CIL will develop 55 new coal mines and expand 193 existing ones in the next five years, Parliament was informed today.

The company is also undertaking portal-based monitoring of ongoing projects to ensure their timely completion.

"Coal India has taken... steps to boost its coal production, (including) opening of 55 greenfield projects having capacity of 92 MTPA (million tons per annum) and expansion of 193 brownfield projects having capacity of about 310 MTPA in next five years," coal minister Pralhad Joshi said in a reply to the Lok Sabha.

A new project on an unused land is called a greenfield project while the existing one that is modified or upgraded is called a brownfield project.

Besides, CIL has introduced technology "to improve its work efficiency with high capacity heavy earth moving

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machinery, like 42 cum Shovel and 240 T Rear Dumpers in Gevra Expansion, Dipka & Kusmunda open cast mines (and) introduction of surface miners in opencast mines to improve operational efficiency and to cater to environmental needs."

During 2018-19, around 50 per cent of the opencast coal production in CIL was through surface miners.

Further, in order to reduce import of coal, CIL is taking up source rationalisation with part supply from higher grade coal sources.

More coal from various sources was offered through e-auction schemes, particularly special forward e-auction, for power consumers, not having fuel supply agreement with CIL sources.

KOLKATA

**BusinessLine**

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New Delhi, November 20

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## TESTS PILOT PROJECT AT CENTRAL COALFIELDS' TOPA MINE

## CIL to Use Drones to Check Illegal Mining and Pilferage

Our Bureau

**Kolkata:** Coal India plans to check illegal mining and pilferage with the use of drones, which it has tested in a pilot project. It's exploration arm, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI), recently tied up with Centre of Aerospace Research, Anna University of Chennai, for drone technology.

"A pilot project was undertaken at Coal India subsidiary, Central Coalfields' Topa Mine where drones successfully tracked sources of illegal mining as well as the route being followed by them to take away pilfered coal," a Coal India executive told ET.

"In a recent meeting with CMPDI executives, secretary coal directed for implementation of drone technology in identified 35 top coal produ-

cing mines of Coal India with a focus on prevention of illegal mining activities, land reclamation monitoring. It was further directed to identify other applicable areas for drone technology," he said.

The executive said the number of drones for each subsidiary of Coal India would depend on their command area and surveillance drones are not too costly and can capture such data successfully. For example, Bharat Coking Coal may require two, while South Eastern Coalfields may require more, he said. Coal India is using drones for survey of blocks and for preparing mining and expansion plans, he said.

Small operators steal coal from operating and abandoned mines, carry them in cycles and bullock carts to a central location where it is sold at a throwaway price. The coal collected there is then loaded on

trucks and a large volume of this coal finds its way to the coal mandis where it is sold at half of Coal India's notified price.

Coal from mines allotted in the past but taken back by the government is also pilfered. Here, dumper, shovels and pay-loaders are being used on a large scale to illegally mine coal," a coal sector official said. There are no comprehensive study on illegal mining, but a study by Delhi-based The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in 2000 showed that brick kilns used 22 million tonnes of coal while Coal India could have supplied only 2 million tonnes.

"E-auction was introduced with the aim of cutting down on the illegal market," former Coal India chairman Partha Bhattacharyya said. "It has reduced the market to some extent but could not wipe it out."

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# Coal India, Isro Tie Up to Develop Satellite-based Air Pollution System

## Eye on Pollution

5 Coal India subsidiaries were recently slapped a total fine of ₹53,331 crore for excess pollution



- **Sensors** in satellite-based monitoring system will measure particulate matter over mines by the extent to which these tiny particles obstruct light
- **Coal India** has used services of satellites for monitoring land reclamation and reforestation

Debjoy Sengupta  
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**Kolkata:** Coal India has tied up with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to develop a satellite-based system to provide air pollution data online to the company and the government.

In the recent past, five Coal India subsidiaries were slapped a total fine of ₹53,331 crore by states for producing in excess of available environmental clearance limits in at least 60 mines. If Coal India has to pay the levies, its finances will be critically hit as the penalty far exceeds its reserves of ₹38,000 crore. Coal India has used services of satellites for monitoring land reclamation and reforestation.

Satellite-based pollution monitoring system exists only at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the US.

ISRO's Space Application Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad has been trying to develop a similar system that is not fully functional yet. We are working with ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre for developing a new system for our mines," said a senior Coal India executive. This will help the company dispense with the ground equipment used to monitor pollution, he said.

Coal India subsidiary Central Mines Planning & Development Institute (CMPDI), has taken up the project for satellite-based monitoring of respirable particulate matter and it is under implementation at Singrauli and Talcher coalfields.

A CMPDI executive said sensors in satellites can measure particulate matter over mines by the extent to which these tiny particles obstruct light. "We intend to link this data to an online server so that pollution figures are available for everyone," the executive said.



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## Coal India to Infuse ₹56k cr into 66 Projects

**Kolkata:** Coal India has firmed up plans to spend Rs 56,000 crore on 66 coal projects with an annual peak production capacity of 500 million tonnes.

The projects are at various stages of implementation and according to a memorandum of understanding signed between Coal India and the ministry of coal over the state-run company's fiscal 2020 targets, almost 55% of the total capital outlay would be undertaken by South Eastern Coalfields (SECL) which is wor-

king on 23 projects with a total peak production capacity of 192 million tonnes. SECL is the largest coal producing subsidiary of Coal India, contributing almost a fourth of the total production at 157 million tonnes in 2018-19. The sanctioned capital for projects undertaken by SECL is around Rs 30,763 crore.

Mahanadi Coalfields is currently working on 11 projects with a peak production capacity of around 156 million tonnes, entailing investment of Rs 8,519

crore. It was the second largest contributor to Coal India's production last year. Western Coalfields is working on 15 projects with a total peak rated capacity of around 35 million tonnes and would be investing Rs 5,949 crore.

Eastern Coalfields is working on four projects with a peak rated capacity of 17 million tonnes, involving a capital outlay of Rs 2,570 crore. Bharat Coking Coal has also undertaken four projects with a peak rated capacity

of 18.5 million tonnes involving an outlay of Rs 2,345 crore. Central Coalfields is developing 7 projects with a peak capacity of 42 million tonnes and outlay of Rs 2,846 crore. Northern Coalfields is involved in two projects with capacity of 40 million tonnes and capital outlay of 3,638 crore.

"Coal India has advanced its targeted 1-billion-tonne production capacity achievement by two years to 2024. It intends to produce 750 million tonnes du-

ring the next fiscal, while this year the target is 660 million tonnes. In order to achieve these targets, Coal India and its subsidiaries will be required to achieve milestones for each of these 66 projects set out in the memorandum of understanding," said a senior Coal India executive.

Recently, the ministry has asked all stakeholders, including consumers and the railways, to extend all help to Coal India to increase production. The coal ministry has also promised to lend

Coal India all possible support to solve law and order issues it faces at some of its large mines. The ministry has also offered to help speed up green clearances for the expansion of mines and setting up of new mines.

From April to end-October, the company has produced 280 million tonnes of coal and supplied 316 million tonnes, including by liquidating 36 million tonnes of pithead stocks. If Coal India has to achieve its targeted supply and production figures, it needs to produce 380 million tonnes in the next five months to March 2020 and supply 344 million tonnes.



# Coal output up 164.58 MT in 5 years

**NEW DELHI:** Raw coal production in the country has increased from 567.77 million tons (MT) in 2013-14 to 730.35 MT in 2018-19, Union Coal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said in Lok Sabha.

He also said that India had to import 234 MT coal last year for which it lost Rs 1.7 lakh crore foreign exchange.

"All India raw coal production increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 730.35 MT in 2018-19, an absolute increase of 164.58 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 73.01 MT between 2008-09 and 2013-14," he said during Question Hour.

The minister said while there was a positive growth in production in the first quarter of the current year (April-June

19), production has been slipping since July.

This is largely because of heavy rainfall witnessed in coal mining areas of the country, he said.

Joshi said this year rainfall has continued in the month of October also which hampered the growth in production during this month that normally taken place after the rainy session.

He said during the current year (April-October 2019), though there has been a decline in dispatch to power sector, it has not affected the coal availability position at the power house end.

Presently, stock at Power House end stands at 22.78 MT as on November 19, 2019, equivalent to 14 days' consump-

tion with 5 power plants under critical list, as against last year same day's stock of 11.68 Million tonnes, equivalent to 7 days' consumption, with 25 power plants reeling under criticality.

"The coal production of CIL and its subsidiaries is being reviewed regularly at the highest level of Ministry. The CIL has been asked to make all out efforts to reach the target by improving production in the remaining months of the current year," he said.

Joshi said the focus of the government is on accelerating domestic production of coal through allocation of more coal blocks, pursuing with state government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.

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## "Constitution Day" AT CIL



CIL observed "Constitution Day" at its corporate office in Kolkata to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. Anil Kumar Jha, Chairman, CIL along with S.N.Prasad, Director - Marketing, R. P. Srivastava, Director - P&IR, CIL & Saroj Kumar Sadangi, CVO, CIL paid floral tributes to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the father of the constitution of India. Jha, later read out the preamble of the constitution and administered a pledge to uphold the fundamental duties.

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# CIL's production perks up in November 2019

SP Bureau

Coal production by Coal India Limited for the month of November 2019 at 50.02 Million Tonnes (MTs) increased by 10.67 MTs compared to previous month of October 2019 registering a growth of 27.1%.

Similarly, coal off-take for November 2019 grew by almost 17% on a month-on-month comparison. CIL supplied 47.37 MTs of coal during the month under review compared to 40.5 MTs for October 2019 – the increase in absolute terms being 6.87 MTs.

"Generally, Coal India compensates for the production drop of the first half of the fiscal, during the second half and accordingly our production has begun to look up from the month of October 2019 when CIL registered a month-on-month growth of around 28%" said an official of the company adding "It is a challenging task given the way our production was crippled due to the severity of the monsoon across our mining areas but with the worst behind us we are increasing our production to higher levels".

Dipka, one of the largest opencast mines of South Eastern Coalfields Limited, whose lower benches were flooded during last week of September 2019 is now back on track producing around 71,000 tonnes of coal per day and the company expects very soon it will touch 1 Lakhs tonnes per day mark.

"These are positives for us and we plan improve on it and keep up the production tempo" said the stated official.

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## CIL output to look up in second half

**A STAFF REPORTER**

**Calcutta:** Public sector miner Coal India expects production to pick up pace in the second half of the fiscal after rain affected output in the September quarter.

Coal production was 27 per cent higher in November compared with October as the miner has been gradually recovering after the monsoon, an official said on Monday.

The miner produced 50.02 million tonnes in November, an absolute increase of 10.67 million tonnes over October.

Coal production in the first quarter was 136.94mt, which fell to 103.99 mt in the second quarter of 2019-20.

The central government attributed the fall to the heavy rainfall in mining areas of the country that continued till October, disrupting production that normally picks up after monsoon.

"It is a challenging task given the way our production was crippled by the severity of the monsoon across our mining areas... but with the worst behind us we are increasing our production," a Coal India official said.

Coal off-take for November 2019 grew 17 per cent month-on-month at 47.37 million tonnes.

However, compared with the same month of 2018, the offtake contracted 7.6 per cent.

The miner has been able to start production from Dipka, a large mine of South Eastern Coalfields, which can produce around 71,000 tonnes of coal per day.

Besides monsoons, law and order problem at Mahanadi Coalfields had also affected production.