

# CIL to pursue overseas lithium assets

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In an interview with TOI, **P M Prasad**, chairman of Coal India Limited, discussed the company's resolve to seek lithium assets for future energy security. He also addressed the renewed focus on underground mining, a segment it has not



extensively explored for decades.

● **Are there plans to acquire overseas mines, particularly for lithium?**

As part of its overseas acquisitions, CIL is concentrating on critical minerals, especially those heavily reliant on imports. Lithium holds a prominent position on our priority list. We are

exploring partnerships with countries possessing significant battery mineral deposits and mineral processing technologies. CIL intends to participate across the entire value chain—from acquisition and mining to leading in lithium batteries. We are also investigating the possibility of acquiring nickel and cobalt assets.

Regarding coking coal, in line with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission and the government's emphasis on indigenous production, the focus remains on domestic production. CIL's coking coal production increased by 14% to 31 MTs until October FY 2024.

● **There hasn't been any major price hike in the last six years. What's your view on price hikes?**

No such proposal is under consideration at the moment. Our dual aim is to ensure energy at an affordable cost to the country, especially by making electricity available at a fair price, while also protecting our bottom line.

● **Is this year's production target of 780 MTs achievable?**

Achieving the 780 MT production target, although daunting, is our primary focus. So far, the production growth of 11.6% is ahead of the annual asking rate of 10.1%. Our subsidiaries are operating at full capacity. Sustaining this growth for the remaining period of the fiscal year is the challenge, requiring surpassing last year's high rate in the same period. With unrelenting efforts, we are on track.

● **What are CIL's plans for solar and hydrogen, along with coal gasification?**

CIL has initiated plans to set up solar power plants with a capacity of 3,000 MW in the next three years. These will be established on CIL's land and through participation across India.

Our target capacities for this fiscal are 320 MW, followed by 1422 MW and 1158 MW in the subsequent two fiscal years. We are also contemplating entry into the hydrogen sector, aligning with India's aspiration to become a global hydrogen hub. CIL's surface coal gasification plans encompass the production of coal-to-chemical derivatives like synthetic natural gas and ammonium nitrate where downstream product acceptability is well established.

## CIL to stop heavy-duty gear imports in six years

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Coal India (CIL) has unveiled a roadmap to phase out import of heavy-duty mining equipment in six years—a move that will save the world's largest coal miner Rs 1,000 crore in additional expenses incurred on customs duty annually and foster domestic manufacturing.

CIL currently procures some gear from domestic manufacturers, but has to import high-capacity gears valued at Rs 3,500 crore and pays an additional Rs 1,000 crore as customs duty. The roadmap proposed by an inter-disciplinary committee under CIL director (technical) starts with the recommendation to include tender clauses to promote use of indigenous equipment. This

### UNVEILS A ROAD MAP

is to be backed up through a scheme to incentivise manufacturers to design, develop and manufacture equipment in India for five years under the 'Make in India' initiative.

Next is standardisation of equipment, already undertaken by CIL. This standard is to apply to captive miners and others, which will create demand for domestic manufacturers. The panel lays emphasis on manufacturing of aggregates such as engines, differentials & transmission systems and motors, etc with a view to improving supply of spares. This is expected to reduce repair time and improve availability of machinery. Imported equipment often remains stranded for long after a breakdown due to non-availability of spares.

The committee expects huge demand for heavy mining and earth moving equipment in the next 10 years since coal is projected to remain the predominant energy source even beyond 2030. The panel had representatives from the ministries of heavy industries, railways, coal mining companies SCCL & NLCIL, and others.

# CIL witnesses production jump of 11.5%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** Coal India Ltd has witnessed an 11.5% year-on-year increase in coal production until November of the current fiscal year. It has produced 460 million tonnes (MTs) of coal by November in the ongoing financial year, and have exceeded the annual target rate of 10.2%. This surge reflects a production increase of 47.4 MTs.

All seven coal-producing subsidiaries of CIL have recorded growth, with BCCL and NCL achieving their respective progressive targets. In November 2023, coal output reached 66 MTs marking an 8.7% increase from November 2022 with a rise of 5.3 MTs.

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# CIL's coal output rises 11.5% to 460 mn tonnes

Supply of coal by CIL to the power sector registered a rise of 4.7% to 398.7 MT in the April-November period compared to 380.8 MT in the year-ago period

NEW DELHI

STATE-owned CIL on Friday said its coal production grew by 11.5 per cent to reach 460 million tonnes (MT) during the April-November period of the ongoing fiscal.

CIL accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output. The company had produced 412.5 MT of coal in the year-ago period, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a statement. "With 11.5 per cent year-on-year growth CIL stayed ahead of the annual asking rate of 10.2 per cent. The production saw an upsurge of 47.4 MT in quantum terms compared to 412.5 MT of same period last year," the PSU said. All the seven arms of CIL have registered growth with two of them -- BCCL and NCL



-- achieving their respective progressive targets. During the last month CIL's production increased by 8.7 per cent to 66 MT from 60.7 MT in the corresponding month of previous fiscal. Supply of coal by CIL to the power sector registered a rise of 4.7 per cent to 398.7 MT in the April-November period compared to 380.8 MT in the year-ago period. "CIL feels confident of breaching the demand projection of 610 MT placed on it by the Ministry of Power for the current fiscal," it said, adding that in a challenge, during remaining four months of FY'24.

कॉरपोरेट

डायरी

## कोल इंडिया का कोयला उत्पादन अप्रैल-नवंबर में बढ़ा

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी कोल इंडिया लि. का चालू वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 की अप्रैल-नवंबर अवधि में कोयला उत्पादन 11.5 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 46 करोड़ टन रहा। कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड (सीआईएल) का घरेलू कोयला उत्पादन में 80 प्रतिशत से अधिक योगदान है। कंपनी के बयान के अनुसार एक साल पहले समान अवधि में कोयला उत्पादन 41.25 करोड़ टन था। कंपनी के अनुसार, कोल इंडिया 11.5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि के साथ वार्षिक मांग दर 10.2 प्रतिशत से आगे है। पिछले वर्ष समान अवधि में कोयला उत्पादन 41.25 करोड़ था। इस अवधि में कोयला उत्पादन में 4.74 करोड़ टन की वृद्धि आई है। कोल इंडिया की सभी सात इकाइयों में वृद्धि दर्ज की गई। इनमें से दो बीसीसीएल और एनसीएल ने अपने-अपने प्रगतिशील



लक्ष्य हासिल कर लिए हैं। कंपनी का उत्पादन पिछले महीने 8.7 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 6.6 करोड़ टन रहा था, जो पिछले वित्त वर्ष के इसी महीने में 6.07 टन था। कोल इंडिया की बिजली क्षेत्र को कोयले की आपूर्ति अप्रैल-नवंबर में 4.7 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 39.87 करोड़ टन हो गई, जबकि एक साल पहले की अवधि में यह 38.08 करोड़ टन थी। कंपनी ने कहा, कोल इंडिया चालू वित्त वर्ष के लिए बिजली मंत्रालय द्वारा लगाए गए 61 करोड़ टन की मांग के अनुमान को पार करने को लेकर आश्वस्त है।