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CIL Sees Jump in April E-auction Sales

Sales from e-auctions increased 27% due to higher offerings at lower prices & easier payment terms

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Kolkata: Coal India Limited (CIL) increased its e-auction sales in April although total sales fell 25% as the lockdown severely hit demand.

Sales from e-auctions increased 27% because of higher offerings at lower prices and easier payment terms as the state-run miner's unsold stocks had swelled to a record 75 million tonnes.

"Auction booking in April was 9.12



The company has firmed up plans to auction 60% of its inventory by June

price in April.

In April last year, CIL had recorded

million tonnes, of which almost 43% was from non-power consumers," said a company spokesperson.

However, at some of the auctions, not the entire offered quantity was booked due to low demand. Spot e-auction sales registered an average premium of 22% over the notified

an average premium of 23% over notified price for coal sold under special forward e-auction for power, which dropped to 1% in April this year.

A company executive said non-power consumers took advantage of the lower price.

The company has firmed up plans to auction 60% of its inventory by June. Successful bidders are now being allowed to carry the fuel on railways which was not always the case earlier. The plan involves offering bulk of the fuel at auctions, allowing consumers to take delivery over several months.

Following the decision, four CIL subsidiaries have decided to offer 46 million tonnes of coal under different e-auction schemes during the first quarter of the current fiscal.

Auctions are also expected to discourage imports. Demand for coal started falling since the lockdown was imposed from March 25. Power consumers and other major industries started restricting supplies from CIL and the management felt that the demand outlook was not bright, at least for the first half of 2020-21, said company executives.

Coal India arm awaits Centre nod for mining project in Assam

GUWAHATI, MAY 27: Coal India arm North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) has said its mining operations in Tikak Open Cast Project (OCP), under Saleki Proposed Reserve Forest in Assam's Digboi, is currently on hold and awaiting final approval from the Centre.

The miner said it is in the process of complying with stipulations and conditions laid down by the National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) and the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change for mining coal in Tikak OCP.

The operations in the project have been suspended from October 2019 on the directive of the Assam forest department, and it is "awaiting the stage-II clearance" from the Centre, a statement issued by the NEC said on Tuesday.

"Green signal from the NBWL and forest clearance for the project are yet to be received for starting coal mining activity in Tikak OCP," it said.

The Assam-based coal producing unit of the Maharatna PSU also needs to submit a feasibility report for exploring underground mining, and it is yet to submit the same for consideration of the Centre.

The NEC had applied to the Assam government for forest clearance in 2003, and subsequently, another application was made in 2012, the miner said, adding that the in-

principle approval, was granted by the Centre with 28 conditions.

One of the conditions for approval was obtaining clearance from NBWL.

"The final clearance, which is stage-II, for this project, will be granted by the Union ministry after fulfilment of certain conditions by the project proponent, NEC, and only then extraction of coal can be done," an official said.

The Assam forest department had, in last month, slapped a penalty of Rs 43.25 crore on PSU major Coal India Ltd for carrying out "illegal mining" inside the reserve forest for 16 years from 2003.

In a meeting in April, 2020, it was decided that a site specific mine reclamation plan in consultation with the Assam government has to be submitted by the NEC for around 57 hectares of forest area, broken up due to mining.

Post nationalisation of coal mines in 1973, the collieries operating in Assam were transferred to CIL for a lease period of 30 years till April 2003 and at that time, the concept of mandatory clearance prior to coal mining was not in place.

It only came into effect after notification of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the NEC pointed out.

The opposition Congress, All Assam Students' Union (AASU), con-

servationists, activists and students have threatened to stage protests, if coal mining is allowed in areas bordering Dehing-Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, dubbed as Amazon of the East.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has directed Environment Minister Parimal Suklabaidya to visit the sanctuary and conduct a field survey on the backdrop of an outrage against coal mining inside the forest.

"The distance of Dehing Patkai Wildlife Project is 9.19 km from the mining site and the Gola-Powai elephant corridor is located at a distance of more than 10 km," the miner said.

The company claimed that it has contributed to the growth of the local economy from Margherita to Jagun and has been a major employment generator in the region.

"Of the 1,200 employees, directly employed in NEC, a large section belongs to Assam. This apart, around 3,000 people are indirectly dependent on the employment opportunities provided by coal mining of NEC," the statement said.

With a turnover of Rs 405 crore annually, the NEC contributes more than Rs 100 crore to the government exchequer through District Mineral Fund Royalty and a slew of other taxes.

Agencies

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कोल इंडिया का अन्य क्षेत्रों को कोयला आवंटन तीन गुना बढ़ा

नई दिल्ली। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड का बिजली के अलावा अन्य क्षेत्रों को कोयला आवंटन अप्रैल में तीन गुना बढ़कर 39.1 लाख टन हो गया। यह कोयला आवंटन विशेष ई-नीलामी के तहत किया गया। कोल इंडिया ने अप्रैल 2019 में इन क्षेत्रों को 12 लाख टन कोयला आवंटित किया था। नवीनतम सरकारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक कोल इंडिया के गैर-बिजली क्षेत्र को कोयला आवंटन में बढ़ोत्तरी ऐसे समय दर्ज की गई है, जब वह बिजली क्षेत्र की ओर से कोयले की मांग गिरने के चलते अन्य क्षेत्रों की पर ध्यान दे रही है। इस विशेष योजना के तहत कोल इंडिया का वित्त वर्ष में कुल कोयला आवंटन घटकर 80.3 लाख टन रह गया।

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E-auction: CIL coal allocation for non-power sector jumps

STATE-OWNED COAL India's (CIL) fuel allocation under the exclusive e-auction scheme for the non-power sector rose over three-folds to 3.91 million tonne (mt) in April. Coal India had allocated 1.20 mt of dry fuel to the sector under the scheme in April 2019, as per latest government data. This growth comes amid CIL looking to tap the non-power sector to consume its coal in the wake of a slump in demand for the dry fuel. For the entire fiscal (2019-20), the PSU's coal allocation under the scheme dropped to 8.03 mt from 11.36 mt in the previous year.

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Coal India to use drones for measuring production at new mines

KOLKATA: Coal India has firmed up plans of acquiring drones for monitoring top soil removal, measuring daily coal production, mine reclamation progress and a whole host of monitoring jobs. The project is expected to gather pace once the lockdown is over.

At present, quantity of top soil removed by contractors from coal seams and coal produced by each pit are measured with ground mounted or hand held devices. It is a time-consuming process requiring extensive movement by executives and workmen. Drones can drastically reduce the time necessary for such measurements offering Coal India executives access to such data faster which in turn will enable faster decision making. The plan is to first deploy drones at 35 top coal producing mines and then expand its usage at all new mines scheduled to be opened up for meeting one billion tonnes production target by 2024, as well expansion projects of some of the existing ones. Following successful completion of pilot projects for measuring top soil removed, coal production and land reclamation, outsourced from external agencies, the company has decided to procure its own drones and retrofit equipment that can undertake the measurements. Coal India's consultancy arm, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDIL) has also tied up with Centre of Aerospace Research (CASR), Anna University of Chennai for acquiring expertise in drone technology. It has ordered two drones which once delivered with necessary retrofit equipment will provide the company with the necessary expertise to deploy them at mines. "Certain equipment for drones were scheduled to have been delivered last month but were delayed due to the COVID-19 lockdown. They are now scheduled to be delivered after the lockdown," a CMPDIL spokesperson said.

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Coal India: रैयतों से बाजार दर पर जमीन लेगी कोल इंडिया, लंबित परियोजनाओं में आएगी तेजी

धनबाद [आशीष अंबष्ट]। कोयला उत्पादन में जमीन की समस्या दूर करने के लिए कोल इंडिया अपनी पॉलिसी में बड़ा बदलाव करेगी। इसके तहत किसानों से सरकारी की बजाय बाजार दर पर जमीन का मोलभाव किया जाएगा। इस प्रकार रैयतों को जमीन की दोगुना से ज्यादा कीमत मिल सकेगी।

अभी तक सौदा मंदा रहने की वजह से रैयत जमीन देने में आनाकानी करते हैं, जिसके चलते 200 से अधिक परियोजनाओं का श्रीगणेश नहीं हो सका है। कोल इंडिया ने पुनर्वास नीति (आरएनआर) में बदलाव करने के लिए कोयला कंपनियों से ड्राफ्ट मांगा है ताकि इसको और बेहतर किया जा सके। 2012-13 के बाद इसमें संशोधन किया जा रहा है। अभी कोयला कंपनियों में दो एकड़ जमीन पर नौकरी सहित दाम व शिफ्टिंग की राशि मिलती है। नई पॉलिसी के तहत विस्थापितों को अधिक सुविधा मिले, इसपर विशेष ध्यान है। अवैध कब्जाधारी के शिफ्टिंग की दर में वृद्धि कर दी गई है।

कोल इंडिया को अगले पांच साल में 450 मिलियन टन कोयला उत्पादन की आवश्यकता है। इसके लिए जमीन चाहिए। करीब 60 नए प्रोजेक्ट के साथ 193 परियोजनाओं के विस्तारीकरण में जमीन अधिग्रहण की समस्या बाधक बन रही है। इसमें बदलाव कर ही रैयतों को खुश किया जा सकता है। प्रबंधन कई पावर प्लांट कंपनियों के आरएनआर स्कीम का भी अध्ययन कर रहा है। नौकरी नहीं लेने पर अधिक पैसा देने पर भी विचार किया जा रहा है।

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रैयतों से बाजार दर पर जमीन लेगी कोल इंडिया



आशीष अवष्ट • धनबाद

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