***Date*:** 08-02-2022
***Publication*:** Orissa Post
***Edition*:** Bhubaneswar

India's dependence on imports for meeting thermal coal demand has sharply reduced. In FY23, this demand shall be met from CIL, SCCL and coal production from captive coal blocks

PRALHAD JOSHI | COAL MINISTER

Date: 10-02-2022
Publication: The Hindu Business Line
Edition: Trivandrum

CIL may delay 'bulk exports' plan; to focus on domestic demand

Coal inventory position is still below the norms prescribed by electricity authority

SHOBHA ROY

Kolkata, February 9

Coal India Ltd's (CIL) plans to get into bulk export of coal to neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan may be pushed to the end of calendar year 2022 as the current priority would be to meet the domestic demand.

According to sources, the State-owned miner might look at across the border sales only after the situation in domestic market has fairly stabilised. While the coal inventory position at power plants has improved to around 12-13 days' stock, up from around three days' stock in October, it is still below the CEA prescribed normative stock of 22 days.

In October 2021, coal stock at a number of thermal power plants were at critically low levels with as many as 107 stations having three days' stock left as on October 3. The low coal stock was mainly attributed to the sudden spike in electricity demand on the back of a revival in economy. The heavy rains during the peak producing months of August-September also impacted production and despatch of coal. This apart, non-payment of coal dues from States also resulted in inadequate supplies.

CIL Chairman and Managing Director, Pramod Agrawal, had at one of the meetings organised by a chamber of commerce in December 2021, said the shortage of coal at thermal plants, which had triggered fear of massive power outages recently, could once again pose a problem if CIL does not ramp up production.

Coal India is likely to set aside around 3 per cent of its total annual production for exports REUTERS

Though there was not likely to be any challenge (of short supply) till March this year, there could be some problem in July-August 2022 if production was not increased, he had said.

A diplomatic move

CIL, which had been supplying to some of these countries on ad-hoc basis in small quantities, is likely to set aside around 3 per cent of its total annual production for exports, sources said. The move would be a part of India's "neighbourhood first" approach which seeks to counter China's growing foothold over South Asia. However, given the current shortage in coal supplies in Indian market, the company would first try to meet the domestic demand before turning its focus on exports.

CIL's annual production is estimated to be close to 670-700 million tonnes (mt). So, at 3 per cent, the estimated quantity is likely to be close to 20 mt. India exported close to eight lakh tonnes of coking and non-coking coal in 2020-21, as per data available on the Coal Ministry's website.

According to Rupesh Sankhe, analyst at Elara Capital India, coal inventory at power plants has improved to 12-13 days' of stock.

"From the point of coal inventory at power stations, we look comfortable as of now. In the medium to long term, we do not see the supply side issue because we (the country) are focussing more on renewable side. So, there is no thermal capacity coming up and the incremental 5-6 per cent demand will be met by renewable energy. In terms of exports, Coal India looking at neighbouring countries is more of a diplomatic move. China is entering in a big way into Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Middle East and to counter that, India has to play some supporting role to neighbouring countries in terms of power or coal supply," Sankhe told *BusinessLine*.

Better realisation

While it will help firm up India's ties with its neighbours, it would also help CIL diversify its revenue stream, experts said. The price of international coal is almost 60-70 per cent higher than CIL coal. So, the company could get better realisations on its exports thereby boosting its profitability.

Coal India had recently amended its e-auction sale policy allowing across the border sale of coal bought under spot e-auction and special spot e-auctions. The move allowed domestic purchasers, including traders, to export coal procured through these spot auctions effective June 8.

Though the company would not be directly exporting, allowing those who procure coal under the two auction windows could prove to be catalytic to its sales. If there is favourable response outside the country, then it may witness more active participation as spot e-auctions book high volumes, a senior official of the company had said earlier.

***Date*:** 10-02-2022
***Publication*:** Khabar Mantra
***Edition*:** Ranchi

उत्पादन बढ़ाने में लगी कोल इंडिया

दीपक कुमार

कोल इंडिया (सीआईएल) ने घरेलू कोयला उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए 40,000 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजनाएं विकसित करने पर काम कर रही है। खनन कंपनी शुरूआती कनेक्टिविटी और कोयला हैंडलिंग संयंत्र में सुधार के लिए 35 परियोजनाओं पर काम कर रही है, जिनमें ज्यादा रेल लाइनें बनाना भी शामिल है।

इन 35 परियोजनाओं की कोयला हैंडलिंग की क्षमता वित्त वर्ष 24 तक अनुमानित रूप से सालाना 40.5 करोड़ टन होगी। हर खनन परियोजना की उत्पादन क्षमता 40 लाख टन सालाना और इसके ऊपर होगी।'अब तक इनमें से 3 परियोजनाएं शुरू हो चुकी हैं। शेष 32 परियोजनाओं में से 29 का आवंटन हो चुका है और वे निर्माण के विभिन्न चरणों में हैं। शेष 3 के लिए निविदा की जांच चल रही है।'

पिछले साल जून महीने में वित्त मंत्री ने 20 लाख करोड़ रुपये के आत्मनिर्भर भारत अभियान पैकेज के तहत 50,000 करोड़ रुपये का आवंटन कोल इवैकुएशन इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर तैयार करने के लिए किया था। इसमें मशीनों से कोयले की ढुलाई के लि 18,000 करोड़ रुपये आवंटन शामिल है। पहले चरण के तहत शुरूआती कनेक्टिविटी या कोयला खदान से लदान के केंद्र तक पहुंचाने की सुविधा विकसित करने के लिए सीआईएल रेल कनेक्टिविटी परियोजनाएं बढ़ाकर 24 करेगी। यह अभी 11 हैं। इन केंद्रों पर कोयला हैंडलिंग संयंत्र भी होंगे, जिससे तेजी से लोडिंग हो सके। दूसरे चरण में सीआईएल 14 और शुरूआती कनेक्टिविटी परियोजनाएं स्थापित करेगी। सीआईएल की सहायक इकाई महानदी कोलफील्ड्स ने ओडिशा के तलचर कोलफील्ड्स में 10वें रेलवे साइडिंग खदान की लदान क्षमता बढ़कर 40 लाख टन हो जाएगी। सीआईएल के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा, 'सीआईएल हमारी 4 सहायक इकाइयों में 21 नई और पुरानी रेलवे साइडिंग बना रही है, जो 132 परिचालन वाली साइडिंग के अतिरिक्त है। इससे ग्राहकों को कोयले की लदान करने में सहूलियत बढ़ेगी। कंपनी 12 रेल लाइन परियोजनाओं के लिए भी वित्तपोषण कर रही है।

***Date*:** 13-02-2022
***Publication*:** Azad Sipahi
***Edition*:** Ranchi

गैर विद्युत क्षेत्र को कोयला आपूर्ति बढ़ाने पर कोल इंडिया का जोर

रांची (आजाद सिपाही)। कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड सीआइएल अभी गैर विद्युत क्षेत्र एनपीएस को प्रति दिन औसतन लगभग 34 लाख टन कोयले की आपूर्ति कर रहा है। सीआइएल का लक्ष्य अपनी खदानों, पिटहेड्स पर 37 मिलियन टन से अधिक कोयला उत्पादन के साथ इस क्षेत्र में आपूर्ति को और अधिक बढ़ाना है। सीआइएल ने वित्ति वर्ष 2022 में गैर विद्युत क्षेत्र एनपीएस को 1017 मिलियन टन कोयले का प्रेषण किया था। जो एक मानक महामारी मुक्त वित्तप वर्ष 2020 की इसी अवधि में 94 एमटी की तुलना में 82 प्रतिशत अधिक था। वित्तीय वर्ष 2019 की तुलनात्मक अवधि में जब सीआइएल ने अपनी स्थापना के बाद से अब तक का सबसे अधिक कुल कोयला प्रेषण दर्ज किया था। गैर विद्युत क्षेत्र एनपीएस को 915 एमटी आपूर्ति के साथ 11 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गयी। इसके अलावा एनपीएस ग्राहकों ने भी कोयले की अधिक मात्रा को उठाने का विकल्प चुना क्योंकि सीआइएल की इ-नीलामी बिक्री वित्त वर्ष 2021 की पहली छमाही के लिए अधिसूचित मूल्य तक ही सीमित थी। गैर विद्युतक्षेत्र, एनपीएस किसी भी वित्तीय वर्ष में घरेलू कोयले के साथ सम्मिश्रण के लिए लगभग 170 मीट्रिक टन कोयले का आयात करता है। लेकिन वित्तिवर्ष 2022 में अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कोयले की बढ़ती कीमतें आवश्यक मात्रा में आयात के लिए एक बाधा साबित हुई, जिससे अंत में उनके पास कोयले की कमी हो गयी। कंपनी के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि सीआइएल के पास गैर विद्युत क्षेत्र, एनपीएस को आपूर्ति बढ़ाने के लिए पर्याप्त बफर स्टॉक मौजूद है और कोयले की उपलब्धता कोई समस्या नहीं है।

***Date*:** 13-02-2022
***Publication*:** The Political and Business Daily
***Edition*:** Odisha

Coal India Limited has sufficient buffer stock for non-power sector, says Govt

NEW DELHI, FEB 12

STATE-OWNED CIL on Saturday said it is currently supplying around 3.4 lakh tonnes of coal per day to non-power sector which is the company's average supply to this segment and stressed that it has sufficient buffer stock to increase supply to the sector.

The development assumes significance in the wake of reports of captive power plants in various sectors including steel and aluminium facing fuel shortages.

The non-power sector (NPS) imports around 170 million tonnes (MT) of coal in any given fiscal for blending with domestic coal. But in FY'22 the spiralling international coal prices proved to be a hindrance for importing requisite quantity, giving rise to scarcity of coal at their end.

Coal India's "despatch to NPS during April-January FY'22 at 101.7 million tonnes was up by 8.2 per cent compared to 94 MTs in corresponding period of a standard pandemic free FY20. For comparable period of even FY19, when CIL recorded the highest ever total coal despatch since its inception, supply to NPS sector grew by 11 percent over 91.5 MTs", the mahratana firm said.

Growth in supplies to non-power sector customers was at a higher rate than the supplies to the power sector during this period.

In dispatch during the April-January period to NPS segment at 105 MT was higher by a little over 3 MT compared to same period of FY'22. The reasons for increased despatch during the Covid ravaged year were several.

As power sector regulated coal intake for major part of FY'21, due to demand disruption caused by Covid, CIL scaled up supplies to NPS segment. Further, NPS customers also opted to lift higher volumes of coal as CIL's e-auction sales were capped at notified price for the first half of FY'21.

With more than 37 million tonnes of coal at its pitheads, the PSU aims to further step up supplies to this sector.

"CIL has sufficient buffer stock to increase supply to non-power sector. Coal availability is not a problem, the company said.

CIL said FY'22 has witnessed an unprecedented surge in power generation, the growth rate being the highest in a decade, necessitating the need to meet the power sector's coal demand on a national priority.

Riding on robust economic recovery, total coal-based power generation till January of the fiscal in progress grew by 11.2 per cent on year-on-year comparison. Whereas domestic coal-based generation was up by 17 per cent during this period. Bulk of the coal supply to power sector was met by CIL on priority.

In a sharp contrast, power generation by 14 imported coal-based power plants was down by 48 per cent during April-January 2021-22. Meeting the resultant generation gap fell on domestic coal-based generators requiring enhanced indigenous coal supply. CIL supplied to the tune of around 20 MT of this additional demand. In other words, imports were curtailed to that extent.

Despite prioritization of coal to the power sector and facing other challenges, CIL at 101.7 MT till January FY'22 supplied 97 per cent of same period last year's quantity to NPS customers. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal production. – PTI

***Date*:** 13-02-2022
***Publication*:** Dainik Bhaskar
***Edition*:** Dhanbad

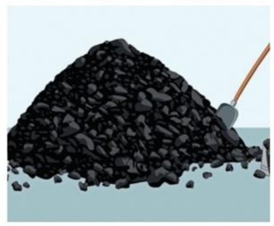
कोल इंडिया से एनपीएस को रोज 3.4 लाख टन कोयला आपूर्तिः अग्रवाल

सिटी रिपोर्टर | रांची

कोल इंडिया के पास इस समय पर्याप्त स्टॉक है। नॉन पावर सेक्टर (एनपीएस) को रोज 3.4 लाख टन कोयले की आपूर्ति कर रही है। यह वर्तमान समय में कंपनी की औसत आपूर्ति है। कोल इंडिया का 37 मिलियन टन से अधिक कोयला आपूर्ति को और बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य है। ये बातें कोल इंडिया के चेयनमैन प्रमोद अग्रवाल ने कही। उन्होंने कहा कि वित्त वर्ष 2021-22 के दौरान अप्रैल से जनवरी तक एनपीएस को 101.7 मिलियन टन डिस्पैच रहा। यह महामारी मुक्त वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-2021 की इसी अवधि में 94 एमटी की तुलना में 8.2 प्रतिशत अधिक है।

***Date*:** 13-02-2022
***Publication*:** The Economic Times
***Edition*:** Bengaluru

CIL has Enough Stock to Step Up Supply to Non-power Sector: Top Exec



Our Bureau

New Delhi: Coal India (CIL) said on Saturday that it is currently supplying about 340,000 tonnes of coal per day to the non-power sector, equal to its average supply to this segment.

With more than 37 million tonnes (MT) of coal at its pitheads, CIL aims to step up supplies to this sector, said a company executive.

Earlier, non-power industries had sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention to address coal shortage in their captive power plants. In a joint representation, eight industry associations, including from the fertiliser, paper, textile, aluminium and sponge iron sectors, had said that the persisting coal crisis was hurting power-intensive plants and small and medium enterprises by forcing them to operate at reduced capacities amid a looming risk of plant closures.

CIL executive said dispatch to non-power industries during April-January 2021-22, at 101.7 MT, was up 8.2%

The CIL executive, however, said dispatch to non-power industries during April-January 2021-22, at 101.7 MT, was up 8.2% from 94 MT in the corresponding period of pre-Covid-19 2019-20. For the comparable period of 2018-19, when CIL recorded the highest-ever total coal despatch since its inception, supply to the non-power sector grew 11% over 91.5 MT. Growth in supplies to non-power customers was at a higher rate than the supplies to the power sector during this period, said the executive, who did not wish to be identified.

In April-January 2020-21, dispatch to the non-power segment, at 105 MT, was slightly more than 3 MT higher than in the corresponding period of 2021-22.

***Date*:** 13-02-2022
***Publication*:** The Hindu
***Edition*:** Bengaluru

Stock sufficient to boost supply to non-power sector: Coal India

Current dispatch at 3.4 lakh tonnes; 37 MT at PSU's pitheads

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL on Saturday said it is currently supplying about 3.4 lakh tonnes of coal per day to the non-power sector – the company's average supply to this segment – and stressed that it has sufficient buffer stock to increase supply to the sector.

The development assumes significance in the wake of reports of captive power plants in various sectors, including steel and aluminium, facing fuel shortages.

The non-power sector (NPS) imports about 170 million tonnes (MT) of coal in any given fiscal for blending with domestic coal. But in FY22, the spiralling international coal prices proved to be a hindrance for importing requisite quantity, giving rise to scarcity of coal at their end.

With more than 37 million tonnes of coal at its pitheads, the public sector firm aims to further step up supplies to this sector.

"CIL has sufficient buffer stock to increase supply to non-power sector. Coal availability is not a problem, the company said.

CIL said FY22 had witnessed an unprecedented surge in power generation, the growth rate being the highest in a decade, necessitating the need to meet the power sector's coal demand on a national priority.

Riding on robust economic recovery, total coal-based power generation till January of the fiscal in progress grew by 11.2% on year-on-year comparison. Whereas domestic coal-based generation was up by 17% during this period. Bulk of the coal supply to power sector was met by CIL on priority.

***Date*:** 13-02-2022
***Publication*:** The Hindu Business Line
***Edition*:** New Delhi

CIL says enough coal stocks available even as non-power sector complains to PM

Coal major says it is supplying 3.4 lakh tonnes of coal per day at present; diversion of rakes to power sector behind scarcity, say experts

RISHI RANJAN KALA
SHOBHA ROY

New Delhi/Kolkata, February 12

Trying to assuage concerns of the non-power sector (NPS) over shrinking coal supply, state-run Coal India (CIL) on Saturday said it is currently supplying around 3.4 lakh tonnes of the dry fuel per day, the miner's average supply to this segment. The firm said it has sufficient stocks to serve the NPS industries.

The response comes after industries ranging from steel to fertilisers and textiles complained to the Prime Minister about the acute supply crunch of coal impacting operations. However, NPS associations are not convinced of the claims and have insisted that the situation be redressed.

With over 37 million tonnes (MT) of coal at its pit heads, CIL aims to further step up supplies to this sector. CIL's despatch to NPS during April-January FY22 stood at 101.7 million tonnes (MT), 8.2 per cent higher than 94 MT in the corresponding period of pandemic-free FY20, CIL said in a statement.

Higher despatch in FY21

Growth in supplies to NPS customers was at a higher rate than supplies to the power sector during this period. From April 2020 to

January 2021, despatch to NPS at 105 MT was higher by a little over 3 MT compared to the same period of FY22, the statement added.

Non-regulated sector consumers, however, claim that they are receiving less than 3 lakh tonnes a day against their requirement of 5 lakh tonnes for operations. Industry sources blamed low availability of coal for NPS to diversion of rakes in the name of "priority".

"Power sector has somewhat a self attained immunity. They do not maintain minimum stocks and when it reaches critical levels, the government has to step in and divert rakes to power plants to prevent large scale power outages," Rajiv Agarwal, Secretary General, Indian Captive Power Producers Association, told *BusinessLine*.

Industries impacted

Industry associations complained that while the demand-supply situation had shown signs of improvement around November 2021, the supply to non-regulated sector (NRS) — including captive power plants (CPPs) — has declined. This happened even as October-March is CIL's highest production period.

On February 7, Aluminium Association of India, Coal Consumers Association of India, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, Indian Captive Power Producers Association, UP Paper Mill Power Plant Owners Association, Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association, Fertiliser Association of India and the Vidarbha Industries Association complained to the Prime Minister on the supply crunch. They claimed that CIL has not given any clarity on how long the supply crunch will continue, creating an environment of "uncertainty and panic".

Coal supply critical

Coal requirement of NRS industries is around 20-25 per cent of total production of the dry fuel, including linkages and other auctions. There is a huge pendency of rakes, estimated at around 4,000 pending. Lack of rake movement in the linkage auction, exclusive and spot e-auction routes is forcing industries to depend on supply through the road route, which is costly and takes time.

Care Edge said overall coal despatch stood at 216.6 MT in the quarter ended December 2021. The power sector accounted for 84.6 per cent of the total despatches for Q3 FY22 as collieries prioritised fuel supply to power plants to meet rising electricity demand. This impacted supplies to sectors like cement, sponge iron, fertilisers, textile, chemicals, etc.