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## **STRONG CASE FOR HIKING PRICES: CIL CHAIRMAN**

Coal India (CIL) Chairman and Managing Director Pramod Agrawal said on Monday there is a "strong case" for increasing coal prices, and the hike could be effected "very soon" as discussions are underway with stakeholders. Agrawal also said he is confident the mining behemoth would achieve its production target of 1 billion tonnes by 2025-26 (FY26).

**P3** ▶

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# Strong case to raise coal prices: Coal India chief

ISHITA AYAN DUTT  
Kolkata, 20 March

Coal India (CIL) Chairman and Managing Director Pramod Agrawal said on Monday there is a "strong case" for increasing coal prices, and the hike could be effected "very soon" as discussions are underway with stakeholders.

Agrawal also said he is confident the mining behemoth would achieve its production target of 1 billion tonnes by 2025-26 (FY26).

"There is a strong case for increasing coal prices, as that has not happened in the past five-odd years. This year, the wage negotiation has taken place as well. This will have an impact on CIL's financial condition, especially for a few subsidiaries like Eastern Coalfields, Western Coalfields, and Bharat Coking Coal where the cost of manpower is very high. There will be a lot of problems if prices are not hiked," Agrawal said at the Indian Coal Markets Conference here organised by mjunction.

The last price hike by the state-owned miner was in January 2018 — it was a little over 10 per cent.



**Chairman and Managing Director Pramod Agrawal said that he was confident that the mining behemoth will achieve its production target of 1 billion tonnes by FY26**

PHOTO: PTI

"It is such a critical thing for the economic development of the country that it cannot be increased unilaterally," he, however, added.

Asked when a final decision was likely, B Veera Reddy, director (technical) and director (finance)-additional charge, CIL, said, "There are a lot of stakeholders and the power ministry... we need to reach a consensus. We are in discussions with the Ministry of Coal."

Even as it weighs in on the possibility of a price hike, CIL is stepping up production. This year, it is on course to achieve 700 million tonnes (mt).

The target for next year is being kept at 780 mt. The additional 80 mt for next year is a "stiff target", but CIL is committed to meeting the requirements of the nation. By FY26, it will reach the 1-billion tonne production target.

But it will hinge on factors

like the need of the country and the growth of the private sector, said Agrawal.

"If not 1 billion (tonne), I am hopeful that the requirement would be in that range because our coal is one of the cheapest in the world," he added.

## **Captive/commercial coal mine**

The country is eyeing increased production from mines auctioned for captive and commercial use. Joining the conference virtually, Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena said this year, the share of captive/commercial would be 15 per cent of total coal production of the country.

Last year, production was 89 mt. This year, it is likely to be 112 mt. "In the next two to three years, we are hopeful that commercial and captive mines will increase production," said Meena.

The target for 2023-24 from captive/commercial is 161 mt.

He said the ministry is working on a strategy to enhance the production of coal, so that not just the power sector but all other sectors of the economy have adequate coal and possibly think about exports.

# 'Strong case' for raising prices soon: CIL chief

**MITHUN DASGUPTA**  
Kolkata, March 20

**COAL INDIA ON** Monday said there is a "strong case" for increasing coal prices "very soon" as discussions are already underway with stakeholders.

"There is a strong case for increasing coal prices, as that has not happened in the last five-odd years. This year, the wage negotiation has taken place as well, which will have an impact on CIL's financial condition, especially for a few subsidiaries where the manpower cost is very high," Coal India chairman Pramod Agrawal said.

Speaking at the 16th Indian Coal Markets Conference, organised by Mjunction, Agrawal said there will be a "lot of problems", if coal prices are not hiked. "Discussions are underway with stakeholders... It (coal price hike) will happen very soon," he said.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, B Veera Reddy, director (technical) and director (finance), CIL, said apart from the wage impact,



Pramod Agrawal

the coal miner's costs have also increased due to a rise in raw materials costs. "We are trying to work out what is that (wage hike) impact and accordingly we will put up a proposal (on price hike)... Already, we are in discussion with the Ministry of Coal. There are many stakeholders. We need to have some consensus, then only we can take a decision," Reddy informed.

Coal India said it is confident of meeting the targets of 700 million tonne of produc-

tion this fiscal and 1 billion tonne by 2025-26. "What is important is the readiness to produce. No country can develop unless its energy resources are secured. So, we should be in readiness to produce if requirement is there, if not, the output can be adjusted accordingly," Agrawal said.

Notably, in FY23, CIL's production for 11 months till February stood at 619.7 million tonne, which was up 14.3% year-on-year. Agrawal said CIL was aiming at raising underground coal production to 100 million tonne by 2030 from around 25-30 million tonne at present.

Buoyed by higher revenue from operations due to higher realisation, Coal India reported a 69.41% year-on-year rise in its net profit to ₹7719.11 crore during the third quarter ended December 31, 2022. The company had posted ₹4,556.54 crore net profit in the third quarter last fiscal. Revenue from operations grew 23.69% y-o-y to ₹35,169.33 crore, from ₹28,433.50 crore for the corresponding period of FY22.

# Coal prices likely to be revised soon: CIL chief

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## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, MARCH 20

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DUE TO a slowdown in mining sector, it is likely that coal prices may get revised, Coal India Limited (CIL) chairman Pramod Agarwal said on Monday at 16th Indian Coal Markets Conference in Kolkata.

“There is a strong case for increasing coal prices, as that has not happened in the last five-odd years. This year, the wage negotiation has taken place as well,

which will have an impact on CIL's financial condition, especially for a few subsidiaries where the manpower cost is very high,” Agarwal told a gathering of stakeholders from the coal industry, adding the growth witnessed last year will not be coming soon and even if it does, it will not be sustainable.

Meanwhile, Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena said the ministry is in the process of changing a few existing norms for commercial coal block auction to attract more investments.



# CIL aims for 80mt hike

**A STAFF REPORTER**

**Calcutta:** Coal India has estimated an incremental production of 80 million tonnes (mt) in 2023-24, taking the total production target of the miner to 780 million tonnes. This includes supply to both the power and non-power sectors.

Coal India hopes to end 2022-23 with a total production of 700mt. "Next year our target is 780mt, which is a very stiff target. A growth of 80mt is not easy but Coal India is committed to give that growth.

By 2025-26 we are hopeful of reaching 1 billion tonnes. But that will depend on what is the need of the nation at that point of time. Because by that time competition is also likely to come from the private sector," CIL chairman Pramod Agrawal said on Monday at an event organised by a mjunction.

The chairman further said

## COAL COUNT

*CIL target (in million tonnes)*

2022-23	700
2023-24	780
2024-25	850
2025-26	1000

*Source: Coal India estimate*

that Coal India has charted a plan to step up coal production from underground mines from around 30mt at present to 100mt by 2030.

However, Agrawal also voiced the need for an increase in the coal prices keeping in mind the increasing inflation and the rising costs for the company following wage negotiations. A revision in prices would be crucial for subsidiaries such as Eastern Coalfields, Bharat Coking Coalfields and Western Coalfields where manpower cost is higher.

"I think there is a very strong case for price increase. Because for five years there has not been an increase," he said, adding that discussions are ongoing on a price hike. But all stakeholders, including government and consumers, have to be brought on onboard before an increase is made.

## Expedite exploration

Union coal secretary Amrit Lal Meena said the government is anticipating an increase in the share of coal supply from commercial and captive sources. "This year we are likely to achieve 112mt. In 2023-24, our target is 161mt."

A total of around 125 mines have been auctioned and allocated so far of which 50 have started production. The government is likely to come out with the seventh tranche of auction of commercial coal mines in mid of April 2023.

# CIL chief sees 'strong case' for coal price hike

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** Coal India has indicated there is a "strong case" for increasing coal prices "very soon" as talks are already under way with stakeholders.



"There is a strong case for increasing coal prices, as that has not happened in the last five-odd years. This year, the wage negotiation has taken place as well, which will have an impact on CIL's financial condition, especially for a few subsidiaries where the manpower cost is very high," Coal India chairman **Pramod Agrawal** said.

Addressing the 16th Indian Coal Markets Conference, organised by mjunction, Agrawal added that there will be a lot of problems, if coal prices are not hiked. "Discussions are underway with stakeholders... It (coal price hike) will

happen very soon," he said. The CIL chairman indicated that three subsidiaries of the company could have problems if the price is not revised.

Later, B Veera Reddy, director (technical) and director (finance), CIL, said that apart from the wage impact, the coal miner's costs have also increased due to a rise in raw materials costs. "We are trying to

work out what the (wage hike) impacts and accordingly, we will put up a proposal (on price hike)...Already we are in discussion with the ministry of coal. There are a lot of stakeholders. We need to have some consensus, then we can take a decision," Reddy added. Agrawal said that CIL was aiming at raising underground coal output to 100 MT by 2030.

# धातु, सीमेंट क्षेत्र पर ध्यान दे रही कोल इंडिया

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड (सीआईएल) ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में आपूर्ति को प्रभावित करे बगैर धातु, सीमेंट जैसे गैर-नियमित क्षेत्र (एनआरएस) को अधिक मात्रा में कोयले की आपूर्ति करने के हरसंभव प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। उत्पादन में वृद्धि से इसमें मदद मिल रही है। कुछ दिन पहले इस महारत्न कंपनी ने कहा था कि गर्मियों का मौसम समयपूर्व आने और बिजली की औद्योगिक मांग में बढ़ोतरी के बीच वह ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कोयले की मांग को पूरा करने की तैयारी कर रही है।

भाषा



Date - 25-03-2023

Publication - Financial Express

## CIL eyes 17% growth in coal despatch to non-regulated sector



FE BUREAU  
Kolkata, March 24

STATE-RUN COAL INDIA is likely to register close to 17% growth in coal despatch to customers in the non-regulated sector (NRS) in the fourth quarter compared to the third quarter this fiscal.

Coal despatch to NRS customers is averaging 367,000 tonne per day in the fourth quarter till date, the miner said in a statement to the exchanges on Friday. CIL is likely to close the ongoing quarter with 33 million tonne (MT) supply to this sector.

"It would mean 4.7 MT more coal to NRS, or a jump of 16.6%, compared to 28.3 MT that the company supplied in the third quarter of the year. Supplies to NRS during January-March 2023 expected at 33 MT, which would be 3.1 MT more against comparable quarter of FY22, representing a double-digit growth of 10.4%," the statement said. CIL had supplied 29.9 MT to non-regulated sector in the last quarter of FY22.

The improved supplies to NRS, from the quarter beginning January were fuelled by the accretion in the coal inventory at CIL's pitheads.

In March, coal stock increase at CIL's end was to the tune of 600,000 tonne per day so far despite higher

Coal despatch to NRS customers is averaging 367,000 tonne per day in the fourth quarter till date, the miner said

supplies to power utilities. CIL's pithead stock, which was 31 MT in the third quarter ending December 2022, has doubled to a buffer of 63.8 MT as on March 23. The stocks are expected to be 68 MT by the fiscal's closure.

"We are making all efforts to supply higher quantities to NRS customers without affecting supplies to power sector, through increased production," a CIL official said.

In the ongoing quarter of FY23, CIL has hooked close to 16 MT in e-auctions which is 1 MT more than 15 MT of the previous quarter.

With more auctions lined up in the last week of March, coal hooking will go even higher by the quarter's end.

CIL has the option of placing upto 20% of its total production under the e-auction hammer after fulfilling its fuel supply agreements. Though e-auction sales fetch higher add-on over the notified prices, CIL's priority is to fulfill its FSA commitments and meet the demand surge from the power sector, the statement added.



Date - 25-03-2023

Publication - The New Indian Express

## **CIL to supply 33 MT coal to NRS customers**

NEW DELHI: State-owned Coal India Limited (CIL) is likely to supply 33 million tonnes (MTs) to its non-regulated sector (NRS) customers in the fourth quarter of this fiscal. This is about 16.6% growth in coal despatch to the sector, as against the preceding quarter. The coal despatch to NRS customers is averaging 3.67 lakh tonnes a day in Q4 FY '23 till date. "Improved supplies were fuelled by accretion in the coal inventory at CIL's pitheads." *ENS*

# एनआरएस ग्राहकों को कर रहे भरपूर कोयले की आपूर्ति : कोल इंडिया

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड (सीआईएल) ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में आपूर्ति को प्रभावित करे बगैर धातु, सीमेंट जैसे गैर-नियमित क्षेत्र

■ सीआईएल ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कोयले की मांग को पूरा करने की कर रही तैयारी

(एनआरएस) को अधिक मात्रा में कोयले की आपूर्ति करने के हरसंभव प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। उत्पादन में वृद्धि से इसमें मदद मिल रही है। कुछ दिन पहले इस महारत्न कंपनी ने कहा था कि गर्मियों का मौसम समयपूर्व आने और बिजली की औद्योगिक मांग में बढ़ोतरी के बीच वह ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कोयले की मांग को पूरा करने की तैयारी कर रही है। कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड चालू वित्त वर्ष की चौथी तिमाही में गैर-नियमित क्षेत्र (एनआरएस) के ग्राहकों को कोयला आपूर्ति में 16.6 प्रतिशत वृद्धि के रास्ते पर है।

कंपनी ने एक बयान में बताया कि इस तिमाही में अब तक एनआरएस ग्राहकों को कोयले की प्रतिदिन औसतन 3.67 लाख टन की आपूर्ति की गई है। चालू तिमाही में इस क्षेत्र को लगभग 3.3 करोड़ टन कोयला भेजा जाएगा जो तीसरी तिमाही की तुलना में 16.6 प्रतिशत और पिछले वर्ष की समान तिमाही के मुकाबले 10.4 प्रतिशत अधिक होगा।

कोल इंडिया ने कहा, “जनवरी-मार्च तिमाही में एनआरएस को अधिक आपूर्ति कंपनी के पास भंडार अधिक होने के चलते की गई। ऊर्जा कंपनियों को अधिक आपूर्ति के बावजूद मार्च में भी अब तक कंपनी के पास छह लाख टन प्रतिदिन का कोयला भंडार है।’ दिसंबर 2022 में खत्म तीसरी तिमाही में कोल इंडिया के पास 3.2 करोड़ टन का भंडार था जो 23 मार्च तक बढ़कर 6.3 करोड़ टन हो गया। चालू वित्त वर्ष के अंत तक इसके और बढ़कर 6.8 करोड़ टन होने का अनुमान है।

Date - 25-03-2023

Publication - The Pioneer

## CIL to supply higher quantities of coal to non-regulated sector

State-owned CIL on Friday said it is making all efforts to supply higher quantities of coal to the non-regulated sector (NRS) without affecting supplies to the power sector, through increased production. The statement comes days after the maharatna firm stated that it is gearing up to meet the demand of coal from the power sector amid early onset of summer and a pick up in the industrial demand for electricity. Stepping up on supplies, Coal India Ltd (CIL) is poised to post 16.6 per cent growth in coal despatch to its non-regulated sector customers in the fourth quarter of the ongoing fiscal, compared to the preceding quarter. Coal despatch to NRS customers has been averaging 3.67 lakh tonnes per day in the fourth quarter of the ongoing fiscal till date. CIL is likely to close the ongoing quarter with 33 million tonnes (MT) supply to this sector. It would mean 4.7 MT more coal to NRS, or a jump of 16.6 per cent, compared to 28.3 MT that the company supplied in the third quarter of the year, the coal behemoth said in a statement.





Date - 27-03-2023

Publication - The Hindu Business Line

# CIL's supplies to non-regulated sector may rise 17% in 4th quarter

**Our Bureau**  
Kolkata

Coal India Ltd (CIL) is likely to register close to 17 per cent growth in coal despatch to customers in the non-regulated sector (NRS) in the fourth quarter of the ongoing fiscal, compared with the preceding quarter.

Coal despatch to NRS customers has averaged 3.67 lakh tonnes per day till date in Q4 FY23. CIL is likely to close the ongoing quarter with 33 million tonnes (mt) supply to this sector. It would mean 4.7 mt more coal to NRS against 28.3 mt supplied in the third quarter of the year.

Metals, cement and other sectors that use coal for captive purposes are typic-



**ON THE RISE.** Coal despatch to NRS customers has averaged 3.67 lakh tonnes per day in Q4 of FY23

ally considered to be the non-regulated sector.

Supplies to NRS during January-March 2023 are expected at 33 mt, which would be 3.1 mt more against that in the same period last year, representing double-digit growth of 10 per cent. CIL supplied

29.9 mt to the non-regulated sector in the final quarter of FY22.

The improved supplies to NRS from the quarter beginning January 2023 were fuelled by accretion in the coal inventory at CIL's pit-heads. In the current month (March), the increase in coal stocks at CIL's end is to the tune of 6 lakh tonnes per day, despite higher supplies to power utilities, said a press statement issued by the company.

## **BUFFER IMPROVES**

CIL's pithead stock, which was 32 mt in the third quarter ending December 2022, has doubled to a comfortable buffer of 63.8 mt as on March 23. CIL's stocks are expected to be 68 mt by the end of the current fiscal.