



Dear Readers,

I am glad to hand over the Volume II, Year 5 of AIACE TODAY. Our country has achieved many mile stones in last three months by sending Chandrayan to the moon, hosting the G20 summit on the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future". The summit focused on UN Sustainable Development Goals, climate action and green development initiatives, multilateral financing, digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence (AI), and international taxation, among others. The parliament also passed the women's reservation bill very smoothly which has opened door for more women parliamentarians and legislatures in the country after 2029. The country witnessed a quantum jump coal production to the tune of 12.06 per cent @ 428.25 MT in FY24 of coal compared to 382.16 MT during the same period in FY23. The cumulative coal dispatch (April-September) rose almost 11 per cent to 462.32 MT in FY24 as compared to 416.64 mt during the corresponding period in FY23. Out of the above production, CIL accounted for 332.9 MT, Singreni for 31.32 MT and others 64.08 MT in 2023-24 against 299 MT, 29.23 MT and 53.96 MT in the corresponding period in 2022-23. This exceptional growth is attributed to the unwavering dedication of coal PSUs and their employees as well contractor workers, which have played a pivotal role in driving this extraordinary progress.

India is the fifth largest economy of the world and is gearing up to become the 3rd largest economy in years to come. Coal is the most abundant and cheap source of energy and India has as on 01.04.2022 is 361411.46 million tonnes. The exploitation of coal resource with sustainable development in mind, it is needed to increase the production and productivity causing minimum damage to the environment. The country needs 1750 BU of power (for 2023-24) to meet the energy requirement for industry, agriculture and domestic purpose. As of now, about 78 % of energy requirement is met by coal. Total installed generation capacity (as on 30/6/2023) in our country is 205895 MW of coal out of total fossil fuel's share @ 232729 MW. The share of non-fossil ie renewable energy is 176493 MW followed by a meager 7480 MW from nuclear source. India remains the second largest coal producer and consumer in the world. CIL produces around 83% of nation's entire coal output.

Coal India and Singreni colliery management implemented the National Coal Wage Agreement -XI in June 2023 leading to mass unrest among the executives of the companies. This agreement saw the basic wage of non-executive employees surpassing the minimum basic salary of E4 grade executives. AIACE took proactive action and represented the CIL/SCCL mgt, Coal Ministry and DPE for resolving the pay conflict post implementation of NCWA XI. The Principal General Secretary, AIACE took time to meet the Coal Secretary and apprised him the ground level situation. He also met the economic advisor, DPE and requested for issuing guide line to coal ministry to resolve the issue. This pay conflict created unrest in the young and junior executives. Some of the enthusiastic executives resorted to court case in Bilaspur and Jabalpur High courts separately. The Jabalpur High court after hearing passed the order for quashing of NCWA XI. This quashing threatened the workers for reduced wage. The trade Unions served notice for strike which necessitated interference by Central Labour commissioner. The CIL management issued advisory for keeping preparation and printing of pay slip of workers and executives on hold till further instruction. This draconian instruction was vehemently opposed by All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE) and the management had to modify the instruction. While CIL has obtained stay order on the single bench judgment, still the matter is sub-judice. The payment wage to workers and salary to executives has been made and unrest has quenched for some time. Our association has been requesting management to solve the pay conflict by giving personal pay in the form of number of increments to the eligible executives. But the management moved a note for pay upgradation which was rejected by Coal Ministry and DPE. The only way to solve the issue is to give PP. It has been learnt that CIL management is working over to resolve the issue by forming a high-level committee. But, AIACE will not sit silent till the issue is resolved. AIACE has given call for demonstration before CIL/ SCCL office on 30th October for fulfillment of different demands including enhancement of pension, smoothening CPRMS for executives and non- executives, resolution of pay conflict, PRP, NPS and perquisites to non- executive employees by converting wage period from 5 years to 10 years to resolve future pay conflicts.

In the end, I wish happy Navratri, Deepawali and Chhath to all.

Regards,

P. K. Singh Rathor