



Dear Readers,

I am glad to handover 11th volume of 3rd year of AIACE Today and hope you will find it useful.

Demand for coal is increasing world-wide as it offers the cheapest fuel for power generation. In line with the global scenario, the coal consumption in India is likely to rise to more than 1200 MT in coming four to five years. But, global concern for reducing emission of green house gases in the environment is going to affect the development of Greenfield coal projects to meet the coal demand indigenously. The government has adopted many measures to increase production and even allowing private producers to sell coal in the market. In this issue, we will focus on threat to coal sector from renewable energy sector.

Coal India, Singreni Colleries and Neyveli Lignite Corporation have been mandated to reduce carbon foot print as per action plan decided by coal ministry. Coal India has installed 5.312 MW of Solar project till now and 465.1 MW capacity, and has in pipeline including 10.1 MW roof top and 455 MW ground mounted projects. CIL and its subsidiary have made a roadmap to become Net Zero Energy Company for CIL and subsidiary and by end of 2023-24, it would install total 3000 MW of solar power plants.

Neyveli Lignite has installed the Renewable Energy Projects of capacity 1421 MW and is working to install 1000 MW Solar Power Projects under infrastructure plan. Singreni colliery has commissioned 152 MW solar power plants and will be installing 300 MW solar power plants in vacant lands, overburden dumps, water reservoir at STPP and water reservoir at opencast mine in SCCL command area.

For controlling emission of green house gases, fly ash and other gases, indigenous technology for converting high ash Indian coal to methanol is being looked upon. This technology will help the country move towards the adoption of clean technology and promote the use of methanol as a transportation fuel (blending with petrol), thus reducing crude oil imports. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has developed the fluidized bed gasification technology suitable for high ash Indian coals to produce syngas and then convert syngas to methanol with 99% purity.

Under Atma Nirbhar Bharat, conversion of coal to gas for domestic cooking, transportation, urea, steel and fertiliser industries are underway. The time has come to not only to produce coal to meet the energy demand but also to manage the waste from coal. Coal beneficiation reduces emissions of ash and sulfur dioxide when the coal is burned whereas, electrostatic precipitators and fabric filters can remove 99% of the fly ash from the flue gases. Low-NOx burners allow coal-fired plants to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions. Supercritical and ultra-supercritical coal-fired plants ie high-efficiency low-emission (HELE) plants are needed to save the earth and environment.

So, let us come together and join hands to save the earth from becoming further hot. Let us try to work in such a way so as to ensure sustainable coal economy and resources available for future generation.

At the domestic front, Coal India is doing a lot for the country and its employees. The recent promotion orders speak the action of the management to ensure career growth of employees and executives. The bonus for wage board employees has been announced and it is time to announce payment of performance related pay to its executives by CIL and Singreni collieries. The transfer and job rotation policy of CIL needs to be revisited and executives and employees of more than 55 years of age should not be disturbed and transferred mere on the ground that they have completed certain years of service at a particular place. CIL management must ensure that intercompany transfer be effected only in case of promotion.

AIACE had taken up many issues with management and government, like Interest on NPS corpus, enhancement of pension, smoothening of post retirement medical benefits, voluntary retirement scheme as designed by Department of Public Enterprises and others; and AIACE is working sincerely over these issues.

India is a land of festivals and fairs. Coming quarter of 3 months duration, will witness several festivals happening all over the country. Best wishes for Navratri, Milad un-Nabi, Deepawali, Chhath, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Christmas and other festivals in the days to come.

With best wishes.



P K Singh Rathor