



Hindustan Copper to reopen closed mines



Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) the state enterprise has chalked out a strategy for pumping up all the copper output of the company. This plan includes reopening of closed mines, to augment production capacity up to 20 million tonne per annum by 2024. The company's current capacity of copper ore is 3.8 million tonne per annum (MTPA).

HCL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Santosh Sharma said that the target of the company is to go to 20 MT by 2024. This ramp-up will be done by particular strategy which includes expansion of existing mines like Malanjkhand Number two strategy will be to reopen the closed mines construction of new mines,"

"All these three activities will enable (the company) to reach 20 MT," he added.

The company, which plans to pump in Rs 5,500 crore over the next six years to scale up its output by six times, is looking to reopen its Rakha copper mine soon.

It is planning to raise the capacity of the company to 4.1 MTPA by the end of the current financial year.

"This year only, we are planning to bring it to 4.1 MT. Next year (2019-20), it is 5.1 MT. Then 2020-21 it is 6.1 MT," he added.

Hindustan Copper, which in its recent stats is catering to around five per cent of the domestic copper demand, expects to take it to 30 per cent.

"HCL will be able to cater to 30 per cent domestic requirement of refined copper after this expansion (after 2023-24)," Sharma said.

The company is also hopeful that it's Malanjkhand underground mine would come into operation in September.

The mine is almost ready for production and more than 60 per cent of the company's revenue comes from

Malanjkhand open-cast copper mine, whose production capacity is 2.5 MTPA currently.

"We are going to increase our production capacity of Malanjkhand to 5 million tonne and thereafter 8 million tonne," Sharma added. Meanwhile, Sharma said the waste rocks extracted by Hindustan Copper are fit for the Railways and the company is in talks with national transporter to sell them.

"Railways has already given acceptance certificate. My secondary resources are of fit quality for Railways. That communication we have received. To supply it to Railways, we need some permission from state authorities. Trial run is already in progress," the CMD said.

The company is also likely to commission its waste-to-wealth project soon at its Malanjkhand project, which will enable it to extract precious metals such as gold and silver, as well as minerals such as silica through a copper ore tails project. ■

Vedanta to invest USD 1.6 bn in South Africa



Vedanta Resource's Chairman Anil Agarwal has committed an investment of additional USD 1.6 billion in

South Africa in the mineral mining sector. As per media reports, Agarwal stated that Vedanta has already invested about USD 400 million in the country and is outlining more investments for producing metals such as zinc.

He stated that earlier, the company had committed an investment of USD 1 billion to the country and now increasing it to USD 1.6 billion.

Vedanta Zinc International has already invested USD 400 million (Rs 3,000 crore) at Gamesberg from when it bought the zinc mining project from Anglo American in 2011. It is now planning to build an additional greenfield zinc smelter and refinery. In total, Vedanta's investment in Africa currently stands at Rs. 30,000 crore. ■