

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROJECT- CHOTA-II SUB BLOCK OF CHOTIA COAL MINE

Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd

(BALCO) is an associate of Vedanta Resources Plc, which is a major player in non-ferrous metals having its headquarters in Mumbai with a turnover of US\$ 4 billion (Rs. 18000 Crores). Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) was established in 1965 at Korba, Chhattisgarh, as a Government of India undertaking with integrated smelter capacity of 1,00,000 tpa and alumina refinery capacity of 2,45,000 tpa. BALCO was the first major Public Sector Organization which went through the economic reforms and disinvested 51% stake to Sterlite Group in 2001 remaining 49% stake is held by Government of India.

Production Capacity

The earlier approved Mining Plan has combined peak production capacity of 1 MTPA from Chotia I & II sub block. It is important to note that only 0.30 MT coal reserve is left in Chotia I sub block which is planned for extraction in the current financial year. Possibility of further operating Chotia I sub block is ruled out because area beyond the OC boundary falls under forest jurisdiction for which currently required approval is not in place. Further, there is no underground infrastructure developed by the previous allottee, the underground mining also cannot be started to meet the agreed coal requirement.

It may be noted that approved peak production of 1 MTPA is proposed to be achieved from the year 2016-17 and to be sustained thereafter, this is in line with "Coal Mine Development and Production Agreement" and commitment made in the Commencement Plan submitted to Ministry of Coal.

The requirement of coal at the end use plant of Balco is higher than the production capacity approved for this coal mine. However, considering the reserve base as well as the geo-mining conditions, Balco would continue with the earlier approved peak production capacity of 1 MTPA.

In view of above we are required to increase the production from 0.25 MTPA to 1.0 MTPA from Chotia II sub block but overall production from Chotia I & II sub block will be within the limit of approved peak capacity of 1 MTPA.

Location and Accessibility

The Chotia-II sub block is located in on the western side of Hasdeo River in Hasdeo-Arand Coalfield in Korba district of Chhattisgarh State.

The project site is situated within the geographical grids of latitude N 22° 50'40.6" N- 22° 51' 58.6" N-22° 51' 33.4" N-22° 51' 1.3" N and longitude 82° 33' 1.2" E - 82° 31' 57.9" E-82° 31' 26.9" E-82° 31' 47.7" E.

Road link

Chotia-II sub block is located on Bilaspur-Chirimiri Road which bifurcates from Bilaspur-Ambikapur Road at Chotia Junction. This coal mine is well connected by road to Chirimiri (60 km), Ambikapur (100 km) Bilaspur (120 km), Korba (70 km), and Champa (100 km).

Rail link

The nearest railhead is at Korba. However, nearest railhead on Howrah-Mumbai Railway line of South-East-Central Railway is at Champa (90km).

Air link

Raipur is the nearest airport to the coal mine, which is situated around 200 km from the project site and connected by all-weather road.