



SAIL Reduces Bonus

On a drive to cut operational costs amid adverse market conditions, Steel Authority of India (SAIL) has decided to reduce bonus payments to its over 70,000 non-executive employees by almost half this fiscal. While savings due to this is estimated to be nearly R100 crore this year, the PSU is also winding up many of its branch offices and pruning travel expenses of its senior executives, official sources said.

For the last three years, SAIL has been paying annual bonuses in the range of R8, 330 to R18, 270. While higher sums are given to workers in the five integrated units, with those in Bhilai Steel Plant receiving the highest, those in loss-making units get relatively less. The SAIL management, ahead



of the last Diwali season, had paid R9, 000 per head as bonus for employees in integrated steel plants and R7, 000 to those in other units.

“However, during the recent meeting with the representatives of National Joint Committee for Steel (NJCS), the management has clearly stated that it would not be possible for the company to match the amount of

bonus paid in the last three years as the company is incurring losses,” said Biswajit Biswas, general secretary of the INTUC-affiliated Hindustan Steelworkers’ Union at the company’s Durgapur Steel Plant.

SAIL, which plunged into losses in the first quarter of this year after a gap of 13 years, reported a net loss of Rs 1,378 crore in the first half of this fiscal. Losses could touch Rs 3,000 crore for the current fiscal year, according to an internal estimate.

A SAIL official explained that the payment of bonus is always linked to the company’s profits and given the losses being made currently, all employees, including the non-executive ones, would have to bear the brunt.

5 States Issue Notice for Inviting Auctioning for Mines



The process of auction of mines is moving fast and is to start soon. 5 states have issued notice for inviting auctioning for mines in 28 blocks for major minerals announced, Minister of Mines and Steel while delivering his inaugural address on the interactive session on encouraging Exploration in India. Charting the course for better mineral finds conducted by Confederation of Indian Industry in Delhi, Minister said that MMDR act 2015 was amended to bring in transparency in the auctions and now the thrust is on exploration. The Government is committed towards bringing in an attractive exploration policy to encourage private investment and expertise into the sector and has set up National Mineral Exploration trust (NMET).

Speaking further on the session, the minister stressed on the need for raising the exploration spend from the current 0.4% which is abysmally low. He said that the government is moving with a new spirit towards exploration, while Geological Survey of India (GSI), the Mining

Exploration Corporation of India (MECI) and other public and private sector have been working in this direction there is a need for a cohesive thinking amongst all stakeholders on arriving to the

solutions on delivering the targets and addressing the need of hour to tap the potential of the segment.

Speaking on the current challenges before the sector, Mr. Balvinder Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Mines said that, the draft National Mineral Exploration Policy will be ready in the few months has addressed the current concerns before the sector. Mr. Kumar informed that the ministry would soon notify rules for atomic minerals under mining law.

Admitting that the exploration of

minerals require huge amount of technology and financial resources. He said the government intends to bring in new models to attract the private sector in exploration. Elaborating further, Mr. Kumar, said that the three proposed models for attracting private sector participation in exploration could be revenue share from Mining Lease proceeds for 50 years, reimbursement of costs with reasonable profits or Joint Venture with public sector on proceeds. He invited comments and suggestions from CII and industry within the framework of MMDR to encourage the exploration in the country.

Welcoming the guests earlier in the session Mr. Narendra Kothari, Chairman CII National Committee on Mining and Chairman cum-Managing Director NMDC Limited said that in the years to come, mining is expected to be a key industry, attracting huge investments thereby generating additional employment and stressed on concentrating on devising a strategy for a time bound Exploration throughout the country.

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