



## Independent Agencies Examine Quality of Coal Supplied by CIL

Mr. Anil Swarup, Coal Secretary, said that the government has approved empanelling independent agencies to check the quality of coal supplied by Coal India Ltd (CIL) to power firms.

The coal ministry has also decided that power plants of public sector undertakings will get coal supply from CIL till their captive coal mines become operational.

The coal ministry has authorised Central

Institute for Mining and Fuel Research to empanel third party sampling agencies through a transparent process.

Power companies, including state-run HTPC have been complaining of poor quality or low grade coal supplied by CIL.

Under the new guidelines, the independent sampler will collect four samples, one each for the buyer and CIL, one for sampling and one for referral.

## Devendra Fadnavis Invites Mittal to Invest in Gadchiroli



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis claimed that steel tycoon Laxmi Mittal is contemplating investment in vehicle manufacturing in the country. "I have invited him to invest in Vidarbha for the project and offered him the rich iron ore in Gadchiroli," said Fadnavis.

Keen on development of the tribal district, Fadnavis had met Mittal during the former's recent visit to London and offered him to provide all necessary raw material from Gadchiroli under the ambitious 'Make in Maharashtra Campaign', if he comes to Vidarbha for steel production.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of workshop of forest officers and resort owners at Moharli in Tadoba buffer zone, Fadnavis said that there is a large scope for production of industrial quality steel necessary for vehicle manufacturing in Maharashtra. "Maharashtra is a hub of automobile industry. But the steel used to manufacture vehicles is imported. If Mittal comes to Vidarbha to invest in steel manufacturing, he will have all the necessary raw material available in Gadchiroli," said Fadnavis detailing his offer.

The chief minister went to village Masal on the other side of TATR from Moharli after the programme to inaugurate a private resort.

Fadnavis stressed that the government inclined on development of Gadchiroli. "Government has prepared four years of development road map for Gadchiroli. There are vast deposits of mineral resources in the district. We are looking for opportunities of

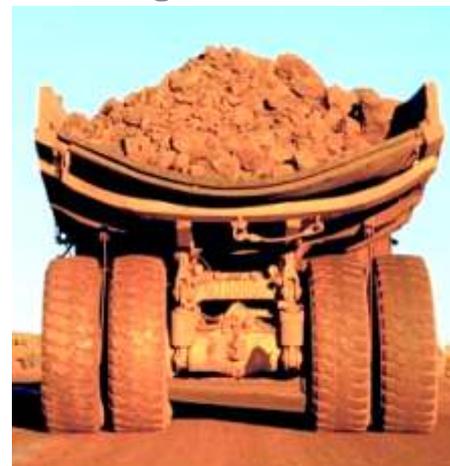


investment there. The government is ready to offer necessary protection to those investing in Gadchiroli," he said.

Fadnavis, however, maintained that there is a condition of raising processing units in Gadchiroli for those exploring its mineral resources. "We have laid a condition that those investing in Gadchiroli should not invest only in raw material. They should take up skill development for people in Gadchiroli and utilize this man power for processing of product, which will build employment opportunities for locals," he stressed.

Forest minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, MLA Nana Shamkule and others accompanied chief minister during the programme.

## Export Tax withdrawal on Low-grade Iron Ore



India's Mines Ministry is considering the withdrawal of an export tax of 10% on lower-grade iron ore, aimed at helping miners in the western Indian state of Goa to attract customers amid a broad plunge in commodities prices this year.

The ministry will propose removing the duty on fines, or granules, with an iron content of below 58% to the Finance Ministry ahead of the federal budget, mines secretary Balvinder Kumar said. The ministries will also discuss raising import taxes on copper and aluminium in the budget, which is due around the end of February, he said.

Scrapping the export tax would boost profitability at Vedanta Ltd., which resumed exports from Goa in October after a mining ban was lifted in the state just as global prices slumped due to the economic slowdown in China, the world's biggest buyer. Chief Executive Officer Tom Albanese said, "Now earlier the company is seeking the removal of excess taxes, citing "skinny" margins due to weak export prices.

"The proposal is to help the Goan miners, who say that high costs are making it difficult to find back their export markets," said Kumar.

Additional shipments from India, once the world's third- biggest iron ore exporter, would only add pressure to the global market for iron ore, the main feedstock for steel. The government of Goa, previously the biggest shipper of low-grade ore from India, shut its mines in September 2012 after a probe found that mining had contaminated ground water. The ban was lifted last year, with an annual cap of 20 million metric tons on output.