



Vales new iron ore mine ready to ship its first commercial consignment

Brazil's Vale SA, the world's No.1 iron ore miner, is ready to send its first commercial shipment of the steel-making ingredient from its largest-ever new mine in the Amazon known as S11D.

The company, which cut the ribbon on the massive state of Pará-based project last month, said 26,500 tonnes of iron ore were loaded onto three ships at the company's port of Ponta de Madeira, in Sao Luis.

The surplus vessel capacity was filled with high-grade iron-ore fines from other mines in Vale's northern operations — Carajás IOCJ. Those mines' output, with 65% of iron content, represents 40% of the company's current sales and, until 2020, they are expected to generate more than half of the miner's total output.

Vale noted that the high quality of the ore extracted from S11D will give the



company flexibility to blend it in ports in Malaysia, China and Oman, with product produced in the so-called south and south-east systems, in Minas Gerais, improving the pricing of the final product, as well as extending the life of the mines in that state.

S11D is expected to reach full output by 2018, enough to fill 225 Valemax ships — the largest cargo carriers in the world. Just to put that in perspective and quoting Breno Augusto dos Santos, the geologist

who helped discover the mine, the massive asset will enable Vale to remain the iron ore market leader for at least a century. And that is only considering the "D" block of the deposit. There are three other blocks at S11 that can be exploited later: A, B and C. The entire S11 deposit has a mineral potential of 10 billion tonnes of iron ore, while blocks C and D have reserves of 4.2bn tonnes, Vale said last month during the mine opening.

Centre to give top priority to secondary steel sector

The Union Ministry of Steel would give top priority to address the issues of secondary steel makers in the country.

In a news report, Steel Minister Chaudhary Birendra Singh gave several directions to ministry officials during the course of a high-level meeting that was conducted in Raipur recently. Representatives from the industry had come from Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Karnataka to participate in the event.

"The issues raised by the secondary steel sector should be taken up as top priority," Singh told the officials. Steel Secretary Dr Aruna Sharma was also present in the meeting along with other top officials of the ministry.

According to the minister, the secondary steel sector needs to be promoted in order to meet the country's steel output. He had earlier said that the ministry was working out a plan to enhance the output and make India world's second largest steel producer.

"The secondary steel sector has a major share in the country's total steel production and its survival is inevitable,"



Singh said, while adding that the secondary steel units are set up with low cost and generate maximum employment. Even the final price after finishing is about 20 percent less than the primary sector.

The major issues pointed out by the

industrialists included curtailing the price of iron-ore, electricity and availability of coal. They also demanded that the steel plants of the state-owned Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) should also provide scrap and raw material at a cheaper cost.

According to Om Prakash Singhania of Laghu Udyog Bharti, an industrial association, the minister had also said that he would organise another meeting in New Delhi, if needed, involving the representatives of the industry and ministry officials for addressing the sector-specific problems

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