

## Steel Ministry seeks easy availability of coking coal

As steel companies feeling the heat from surge in coking coal prices, the Steel Ministry has approached Coal Ministry to seek availability of metallurgical coal on long-term basis, a top official said.

“What we are asking the Coal Ministry is that when they auction the coking coal mines they should do it long-term, so that if the private sector wants to invest upon the washeries they are free to invest upon it,” Steel Secretary Aruna Sharma said. Currently, domestic steel makers meet 70 percent of their coking coal requirement through imports.

“It should not be a short term...We want to underline it very clearly that coking coal mine should be for long-term. So just create a facilitating platform by flagging all the issues and getting them resolved so that the steel sector blooms in a big way,” she added

Metallurgical coal or coking coal is a vital ingredient in the steel making process.

The coking coal price which was at USD 80 per tonne in

January last year rose to USD 283 per tonne in December 2016, Indian Steel Association Secretary General Sanak Mishra said.

However, in early January, 2017 the price of metallurgical coal came down to USD 193 per tonne, Mishra said.

The coking coal import for the steel sector in last fiscal is estimated at over 40 million tonnes. In order to reduced the country’s dependency on coking coal imports, Sharma said that her Ministry was in discussions with the Coal Ministry to invest in washeries.

India is heavily dependent on import of coking coal as the domestic quality has higher ash content which is unsuitable for the steel industry with present technology.

The draft steel policy also aims at increasing supply of domestic coking coal to cut dependence on imports by half. India’s largest steel maker SAIL had recently said that there was a need to develop indigenous sources of coking coal to meet its requirements as recent rise in the price of coal was putting pressure on its operations.



## PT. Gunung Raja orders light section mill from SMS Group

PT. Gunung Raja Paksi, based in Cikarang City, Indonesia, has awarded SMS group the order to supply a continuous light section mill. The new mill will be installed at PT. Gunung Raja Paksi’s new industrial site close to their existing facilities, with production scheduled to commence in 2018. With this mill PT. Gunung Raja Paksi will be able to expand its product portfolio and meet the increased demand for structural sections in Indonesia.

SMS group is supplying a reheating furnace with a capacity of 100 tons per hour, a one-strand rolling mill equipped with 15 housingless (HL) stands in horizontal, vertical, convertible and universal arrangement, a cooling bed, straightening machine, cold saws, magnetic stacker and tying machines.

The furnace will be a walking beam type, designed to achieve excellent heat efficiency and enhanced process control by means of the renowned SMS Prometheus

software. Low-NOx burners ensure a substantial reduction of pollutants released to the atmosphere, markedly contributing to the plant’s objective of becoming a local benchmark for environmental awareness.

The rolling mill will include a roughing mill consisting of six HL mill stands, an intermediate mill consisting of five HL mill stands and a finishing mill consisting of four HL mill stands each equipped with multi-groove rolls. Between the stands of the intermediate and finishing mill vertical loop lifters will be arranged allowing tension-free rolling to closest tolerances. The intermediate and finishing mill will be designed for flexible operation in horizontal/vertical, horizontal only or universal arrangement.

Starting materials will be 150 and 200



millimeter square billets with a length of 12 meters and 300 x 250 millimeter beam blanks, heated in a walking beam type reheating furnace.

The mill will be designed to produce 500,000 tons per year of a wide range of products, such as equal and unequal angles, channels, H-beams, squares and hexagonal bars for the Indonesian market