

Vedanta Invites Bids to Mine Odisha Coal Block

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Kolkata: Vedanta has invited expressions of interest (EoIs) from global mine developers and operators for developing its recently acquired coal block at Jamkhani in Odisha with reserves of 222 million tonne to its full potential of 10 mt per annum.

The last date for submitting EoIs is January 31.

Once operational, Jamkhani is likely to be among the largest private captive coal mines in the country in terms of annual output. It is also likely to mark the entry of Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta — already a large player in iron ore, aluminium, zinc and oil & gas — into large-scale coal mining.

The Vedanta Group is perhaps the largest producer of captive power in the country. Between Bharat Aluminium Company (Balco) and Vedanta operations at

Jharsuguda alone, it has more than 5,300-MW capacity. With plans to achieve fuel security and acquire coal mines, it is now tipped to emerge as one of the largest captive coal miners.

“Vedanta is one of the largest domestic producers of captive power. It is trying to ensure fuel security for its coal-fired plants since power accounts for the bulk of aluminium production cost. The annual requirement of coal — between Balco and Jharsuguda alone — comes to around 30 mt,” a person close to the development said. “Going forward, given the plans to expand aluminium capacity, Vedanta would like to acquire coal mines to ensure fuel supply. It has been buying some 20 mt from SECL, MCL and other sources.”

In Jharsuguda, Vedanta has a capacity 3,615 MW of power, of which captive power accounts for 3,015 MW, and 600 MW is through independent power producers.