

Prospects for Foreign Participation

The opening up of the industrial and mining sectors has widened the scope for both domestic private and foreign participation in the development of the mining sector. Based on present technologies in the equipment industry and the virtual withdrawal of budgetary support to public sector companies, industry analysts foresee a larger role for foreign companies. The participation could be in the form of:

- i) direct export of capital goods and technologies;
- ii) joint participation in mining projects (foreign direct investment); and
- iii) technology transfer tie-ups.

Specific Areas for Participation

India is likely to look for technologies to manufacture machinery such as drilling equipment for large dia. blast holes (250 - 380 mm); stemming and blast hole connecting equipments; large capacity power shovels (up to 20 m³ buckets); large capacity dumpers (over 170t to 240t) and diesel-electric dumpers and mobile and semi-mobile in-pit crushing, screening and conveying equipments. With the future adoption of in-pit crushing and conveying system in over burden and ore benches, the drill dia. size is also expected to change. India has not made much progress in the areas of blasting initiation systems. The use of 'non-electric' delay initiation system is still in the trial stage. IDL Chemicals has developed and manufactured an 'aydet' system in India. The expected modernisation and automation of mining operations, including movement control of dumpers and other earth moving equipment through radio signals and mine communication systems are other important areas for the export of capital goods and the transfer of technology to local industry by way of joint ventures. However, the bulk of the market is in the coal sector, followed by bauxite, iron ore, lead-zinc and copper mining.