

A charging device for a shaft furnace, which comprises at least one charging hopper having a discharge orifice arranged in a position off-centre with respect to the central axis of the shaft furnace, and a material distribution device arranged below this hopper. The material distribution device comprises a feed channel coaxial with the central axis of the furnace and a rotatable, pivotable chute, which is arranged below the feed channel for distributing a charge in the shaft furnace. The charging device also comprises a connecting box in the shape of a funnel, arranged between the material distribution device and the charging hopper. The connecting box possesses a lower central outlet communicating with the charging hopper and at least one upper inlet which is arranged off-centre with respect to the central axis of the furnace and communicates with the discharge orifice of the hopper. According to the invention, the charging device comprises at least one spreader situated upstream of the distribution device, on the trajectory of the material discharged from the discharge orifice. The spreader enables a flow of material to be dispersed to both sides of the feed channel.