

NEWS FLASH –22nd FEBRUARY, 2016

SUGAR

Farmers bitter about sugar share rise in molasses

Kolhapur: Bio Fuel Shetkari Sanghtana, an organization of farmers, objected to the proposed increase in the percentage of sugar in molasses to get more ethanol.

The organization stated that this would lead to a decrease in the sugar recovery that will ultimately lead to losses for farmers.

Dharmendra Pradhan, minister of state for petroleum and natural gas recently assured Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) that their advice of increasing the percentage of sugar in molasses will be considered by the government. ISMA proposed that the government should allow using 25 kg sugar instead of 16 kg to get 40 kg of molasses. One tonne of sugarcane crushing produces 40 kg of molasses.

Shamrao Desai, founder of the Sanghtana, has written a letter seeking the minister's attention to farmers losses if the ISMA's proposal is accepted. "For sugarcane farmers, billing is directly linked to sugar recovery from crushing. If they allow an increase in sugar in the molasses, we would get less recovery. While factories can earn a substantial amount by selling ethanol to the oil companies, they never extend this benefit to farmers. Minister Pradhan while assuring ISMA has not understood the farmers losses," said Desai.

Different types of molasses can be produced from sugarcane factories, such as unclarified molasses, high-test molasses, A molasses, B molasses, C (final) molasses and syrup-off. The B-heavy molasses is used to produce ethanol at present.

"ISMA claimed that the sugar industry is in difficulty and they need to produce more ethanol which can be purchased by the oil companies. Instead of allowing increasing percentage of sugar in molasses to produce ethanol, we propose that they produce ethanol instead of sugar. That would be beneficial for the farmers," added Desai, who is also a bio fuel expert.

He sought the union governments attention to the earlier NDA governments commitment to produce ethanol instead of sugar from the sugarcane crushing. According to Desai, "the rate of one litre ethanol is Rs 48.50 at present. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured the farmers in Punjab that he will frame a policy to make ethanol from maize corn. The sugar industry is in desperate need of such a policy".

The programme to mix ethanol extracted from sugarcane molasses began in 2003 with a view to cut India's dependency on imports to meet its oil needs. However, against the requirement of a minimum 120 crore litre of ethanol to meet the mandatory 5% blending, only 30.6 crore litre was produced in 2011-12 which dropped to 15.4 crore litre in the following year, Pradhan had

recently said. While 5% blending was mandatory, the programme called for raising the level to 10%.

(Source-<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolhapur/Farmers-bitter-about-sugar-share-rise-in-molasses/articleshow/51086371.cms>, published on 22nd February, 2016)

COGEN

Ontario government commits Rs 300 crore for Indian cleantech sector

Government of Ontario, Canada has committed investments worth Rs 300 crore in India's cleantech sector to boost the latter's renewable and other innovative clean technologies.

"During a recent mission to India, led by Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Ontario delegates signed a number of agreements with Indian businesses and the government, cutting across sectors, including 13 agreements in cleantech," an Ontario government statement said.

The estimated value of the agreements in the cleantech sector is CAD 59.4 million (about Rs 300 crore).

Ontario-based Advanced Energy Centre signed agreements with Tech Mahindra, Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL) and India Smart Grid Forum.

"India's energy sector has a huge potential for renewable and other innovative clean technologies to address the energy supply gap, which is where the partnerships assume a strategic importance for the country," the statement added.

"This opens up door for setting up of more cleantech microgrids in India, and also importing of advanced technological solutions for Indian beneficiaries from their Ontarian counterparts," it added.

Ontario is putting its new 'Climate Change Strategy' into action by investing nearly USD 100 million from the Ontario Green Investment Fund into projects that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency and support cleantech innovation.

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/02/ontario-government-commits-rs-300-crore-for-indian-cleantech-sector/>, published on 20th February, 2016)

DISTILLERY

No octroi on ethanol from April, says BMC

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will waive off 7% octroi on ethanol from April 1, this year. The move, in tune with the Central policy to mix 10% ethanol with petrol, will boost import of ethanol, and help bring down the city's pollution levels.

According to the civic administration, the Petroleum ministry, at a meeting held on January 28, 2016 had asked the state government to ensure that the BMC take necessary measures to increase the import of ethanol.

Following this, the civic budget for 2016-17 proposed a waiver on octroi from ethanol. The decision, a BMC official said, compliments the civic body's comprehensive mobility plan, which aims at reducing vehicular pollution.

Civic officials claim that the income from octroi on ethanol is negligible, around Rs 15-16 lakh. Petroleum ministry says a waiver on 7% octroi can bring in 6 crore litres of ethanol to the city every year.

(Source-<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-no-octroi-on-ethanol-from-april-says-bmc-2180176>, published 21st Feb, 2016)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY:

"Ability is what you're capable of doing, motivation determines what you do, attitude determines how well you do it."

HEALTH TIP OF THE DAY:

Feel like snacking in the middle of the day? Stock up on nuts and seeds or citrus fruits that are known to cure fatigue and stimulate alertness.