

NEWS FLASH –4th March, 2016

SUGAR

Sugar output up 2% in Oct-Feb; export contracts at 1.2 mn tons

Out of 513 sugar mills, 107 mills have so far shut their operations, mostly in Maharashtra due to scarcity of sugarcane in view of deficient monsoon last year.

India's sugar production rose by 2 percent to 19.94 million tonnes during the first five months of the current marketing year, starting October, while mills have contracted to export 1.25 million tonnes of the sweetener. Out of 513 sugar mills, 107 mills have so far shut their operations, mostly in Maharashtra due to scarcity of sugarcane in view of deficient monsoon last year. "From the beginning of the season, from 1st October 2015 to 29th February 2016, sugar mills have produced 199.47 lakh tonnes of sugar, as compared to 195.58 lakh tonnes produced during the same period in 2014-15 sugar season," Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said in a statement. Sugar marketing year runs from October to September. On exports, the association said that 1.25 million tonnes have been contracted as per information provided by sugar mills. One million tonnes have been moved from factories for exports. Sugar production in Maharashtra stood at 7.04 million tonnes during October 2015 to February 2016 period against 7.47 million tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous marketing year. In Uttar Pradesh, mills have produced 5.36 million tonnes of sugar till February as against 4.95 million tonnes produced during the same period in 2014-15. Sugar production in Karnataka have produced 3.60 million tonnes of sugar, up 2,96,000 tonnes from the year-ago period. "During the current 2015-16 sugar season, out of 513 sugar mills which started operations, 107 have shut their operations by 29th February 2016. Last year, out of 517 sugar mills which were in operation between 1st October and 28th Feb. 2015, 13 had shut their operations," ISMA said. Sugar production of India, the world's second-largest producer and biggest consumer, is estimated to decline at 26 million tonnes in 2015-16 marketing year against 28.3 million tonnes in the previous year on deficient rains.

(Source- http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/economy/sugar-output2oct-feb-export-contracts-at-12-mn-tons_5738881.html, published on 3rd March, 2016)

COGEN

Government gets Rs 726 crore from auction of 31 coal blocks

Government has generated revenue of Rs 726 crore from the auction of 31 coal blocks, Parliament was informed today.

"The actual revenue generated till January 2016 only from auction of 31 coal mines under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 is Rs 7,26,32,97,858 (provisional)," Coal and Power Minister Piyush Goyal said in a written reply to Lok Sabha.

The minister further said "the estimated revenue which would accrue to the coal bearing states concerned from the allotment of 43 coal mines and auction of 31 coal mines during the life of mine/lease period is Rs 1,96,698 crore and Rs 1,48,276 crore respectively."

Goyal further said the fourth round of coal blocks auctions for the non-regulated sector was cancelled in view of the prevalent market conditions which included sharp decline in e-auction price of coal from Coal India as well as the international FOB price of non-coking coal among other factors.

The three round of mines auction were held last year after the Supreme Court in 2014 cancelled the allotment of 204 coal blocks.

(Source: <http://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/govt-to-get-rs-40000-crore-by-2018-from-coal-cess-piyush-goyal/51227871>)

Greenpeace says China increasing coal-fired capacity

Greenpeace East Asia said that China had a total of 210 coal power projects in the pipeline for environmental assessment despite overcapacity in the industry and pollution concerns. Of those, 95 projects received final regulatory permits that would allow construction to begin, it said.

BEIJING | March 2: Greenpeace East Asia said on Wednesday that China had a total of 210 coal power projects in the pipeline for environmental assessment permitting at the end of 2015, despite overcapacity in the industry and pollution concerns.

Of those, 95 projects received final regulatory permits that would allow construction to begin, Greenpeace said in a report. Construction began on at least 66 coal power projects with a combined capacity of 73 gigawatts (GW), Greenpeace added, some of which had received approval in a previous year.

"There is a very rapid and accelerating net increase in coal-fired generating capacity," Lauri Myllyvirta, the group's senior global campaigner on coal, told Reuters.

China suffers from severe air pollution and is the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide. Some 70 per cent of its electricity comes from coal-fired power plants, which are a major source of greenhouse gases.

The country aims to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels by increasing the share of nuclear, hydro, wind and solar power, with the goal of cutting emissions of major pollutants in the power sector 60 per cent by 2020. China already has the world's largest capacity of photovoltaic solar power.

The head of China's National Energy Administration said recently that it would limit which provinces coal plants can be built in, as well as postpone the approval and construction of some plants, while cancelling others. The NEA also said it aims to close more than 1,000 coal mines this year.

China's power consumption was 5.550 trillion kilowatt-hours in 2015, up just 0.5 per cent compared

to the year before, with power generation down 0.2 per cent even as generation capacity grew 10.4 per cent.

Generation capacity for thermal power - most of which is coal - rose 7.8 per cent, even as thermal generation fell 2.8 per cent, meaning that the number of idle coal power plants grew last year.

Power plant utilization rates fell to lowest point since 1978 last year.

(Source:<http://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/greenpeace-says-china-increasing-coal-fired-capacity/51236654>)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY:

“Jump, and you will find out how to unfold your wings as you fall.” - Ray Bradbury