

SUGAR

Sena slams government for late cane-crushing season

The Bhartiya Janata Party's partners in the ruling alliance are raising their voice of protest against the decision to delay sugarcane crushing season.

A panel of ministers on Monday night decided to delay the sugarcane crushing season owing to the decline in cultivation. Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana leader and MP Raju Shetti slammed the government for deciding to postpone the crushing season saying that it would affect farmers as well as sugar factories.

On Thursday, Shiv Sena leaders demanded that all the sugar factories start sugarcane crushing from November 1. They have also threatened to launch an agitation if the government fails to take a decision in this regard.

Shiv Sena district unit head Vijay Devane said, "The decision taken by the panel of ministers to start crushing season from December 1 is wrong. Though there is decline in the cultivation of sugarcane in the state this year, Kolhapur has recorded almost same cultivation as compared to last year."

"We have received information that the sugar factories from Karnataka that were planning to start crushing season from November 15 have now decided to start it earlier. They will keep an eye on the sugarcane producers from talukas along Karnataka boundary, which will affect sugar industry in Kolhapur," he added.

The farmers that had planted sugarcane in August 2015 were hoping to send their produce to factories by October-end. If crushing is delayed, the farmers will not benefit. "There are chances of increasing recovery of sugarcane, but the weight of crop will be reduced, hence farmers will get less returns and factories will earn maximum profit. The state government should change its decision and permit sugar factories to start crushing from November 1," he said.

A delegation of Shiv Sena met Sachin Rawal, joint director of sugar commissionerate, Kolhapur on Thursday and presented a memorandum of their demands. The party has threatened to start agitation in Kolhapur if the government decision is not changed soon.

(Source- <http://sugarnews.in/sena-slams-government-for-late-cane-crushing-season/>, published on 7th October, 2016)

Medium sugar gains on good demand

Medium sugar gained at the Vashi wholesale market today on good demand from stockists and retailers amid festive offtake.

While, small sugar held steady in the absence of any major buying.

Medium sugar rose by Rs 6 per quintal to Rs 3,662/ 3,882 from Thursday's closing level of Rs 3,656/3,882.

Small sugar prices closed unchanged at Rs 3,582/ 3,756 per quintal.

Following are today's closing rates for sugar (per quintal) with the previous rates given in brackets:

Small sugar (S-30) quality: Rs 3,582/3,756 (Rs 3,582/3,756).

Medium sugar (M-30) quality: Rs 3,662/3,882 (Rs 3,656/3,882).

(Source-http://www.ptinews.com/news/7949528_Medium-sugar-gains-on-good-demand.html, published on 7th October, 2016)

Co-gen/Power

Strong pipeline of solar projects aided by policy support; but regulatory challenges persist: ICRA

The solar project pipeline in the country remains strong supported by policies but regulatory challenges persist arising out of factors such as non-enforcement of renewable purchase obligations (RPOs) and likelihood of more stringent scheduling and forecasting norms, research agency ICRA said in report.

About 6,100 Megawatt capacity of solar projects were awarded during the 8-month period of CY2016 (January – August), supported by policies at both the Central and the state level.

"About 2,520 MW capacity of solar PV projects, awarded in CY2016 so far (January till August 2016), have a tariff of less than Rs. 5/kWh, which could face challenges in achieving financial closure. Viability of such tariffs hinges on structuring of debt with longer tenures, competitive funding costs and the ability of the project developers concerned to keep the cost of modules within the budgeted levels," said Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President, ICRA.

(Source-<http://indianpowersector.com/2016/10/strong-pipeline-of-solar-projects-aided-by-policy-support-but-regulatory-challenges-persist-icra/>, published on 7th October, 2016)

Open access turns out to be a shocker to KSEB

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) has said that it suffered a revenue loss of Rs 35.94 crore in 2015-16 on account of having to provide 'open access' to industrial consumers without collecting a surcharge for the same. The beleaguered state government company has now sought permission from the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission to collect cross subsidy surcharge and an additional surcharge from these consumers to make up for the loss.

Open access allows electricity consumers in the state to buy power from suppliers of its choice and use the transmission network of the KSEB to bring it home. However, the commission has not allowed the KSEB to collect surcharge to make up for the financial loss it suffers when its high-end consumers abruptly drop the KSEB to go shopping with private suppliers.

According to the KSEB, the Electricity Act allows it to collect cross subsidy surcharge from such consumers to enable low-cost power supply to economically weaker sections like the domestic category. Open access without cross subsidy leads to massive losses to it, the KSEB said. The power utility generally enters into long-term purchase deals with generating stations

outside the state months in advance, anticipating the projected demand. But consumers, generally big industries, opt for open access on a day-ahead basis if prices are lower in the open market. This leaves the KSEB in the lurch as it has to surrender the excess power it has booked. But it still needs to pay a fixed cost to generating stations regardless of whether it buys the power or not.

"During the year 2015-16, 12 embedded consumers of KSEB had drawn power through open access whereas in 2016-17, 14 consumers had availed themselves of this facility. In 2015-16, the total open access drawal was 142 million units (MU) and this year (2016-17) it is 119.45 MU up to July 2016. Correspondingly, the KSEB had to surrender 123.76 MU and 99.81 MU in these years. The unrecovered fixed charge that had to be paid by KSEBL to its suppliers was Rs 16.13 crore and Rs 15.83 crore," the KSEB said in its plea to the commission. The total revenue loss stood at Rs 35.94 crore in 2015-16.

Open access and cross subsidy have been a source of bitterness between the KSEB and the regulatory commission. In July, the KSEB denied open access to 15 industries, kicking up a row.

The commission ruled in favour of the industries, but remained silent on the KSEB's demand for cross subsidy. Industrial consumers comprise only 1.24 percent of the KSEB's 1.16 crore consumers, but account for 24 per cent of the KSEB's electricity sales, and therefore, a lion's share of its revenue from tariff. So losing them to private players via open access leaves a big dent in the power utility's income.

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/10/open-access-turns-out-to-be-a-shocker-to-kseb/>, published on 7th October, 2016)

NTPC Dadri bags 'top plant' award in US

The National Capital Power Station, Dadri (NTPC Dadri) has bagged the award for 'top plant' 2016 in the coal fired generation category by the Power Magazine USA in its October issue. The magazine, which is the official publication of Electric Power covering Business and Technology for the Global Generation Industry, announced the award on Oct 1.

While the winning attributes of NTPC Dadri (coal based station) for the said award amounted to 'one of consistently top performing plants of NTPC, despite age and challenges in the Indian power market', its staff too got appreciation for having worked out a range of innovative approaches to increase plant efficiency without increasing costs, thereby achieving 100% fly ash recycling and implementing a zero liquid discharge system.

"We have always endeavoured towards quality performance and are very happy on getting this award," Debashish Sarkar, group general manager Dadri told TOI.

With a total installed capacity of 2,654 MW, NTPC Dadri is one of the largest power plants in India. It consists of six coal-fired units, (4x210 MW and 2x290 MW), 829 MW gas fired combined cycle plant and a 5 MW solar farm.

Adjacent to the plant is a 5,300 MW switchyard - the largest in the nation - which connects to a 400kv transmission line.

Meanwhile D K Sood, former executive director (Commercial) NTPC Limited, took charge as executive director (CSR/R&R) and regional executive director Dadri, Badarpur and Faridabad (DBF), NTPC Limited on October 3 following the transfer of R K Srivastava, ED (NETRA) and RED (DBF) as executive director (WR-II), Raipur.

Sood, who has also served as Business Unit Head of NTPC Dadri during the year 2012 to 2015, was also instrumental in the station winning many earlier awards.

(Source- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/noida/NTPC-Dadri-bags-top-plant-award-in-US/articleshow/54719012.cms>, published on 6th October, 2016)

Poland parliament ratified the Paris climate change agreement

Poland's parliament ratified the Paris climate agreement on Thursday, ending doubts that the coal-dependent nation might defy other European Union members which have endorsed the shift away from fossil fuels.

The Paris agreement is due come into effect on Nov. 4 after clearing a final hurdle on Wednesday when seven EU countries signed up. U.S. President Barack Obama called it a "historic day" and a potential "turning point" in protecting the planet.

Poland, whose economy is heavily dependent on coal, has often been the least enthusiastic of EU nations in climate policies, fearing it will face big costs, but has come round to support the Paris agreement.

On Thursday, 402 lawmakers voted in favour of the bill against just 36 who voted against. It still needs to be signed by the Polish president. "We are very happy that the majority of MPs has acceded to our proposal. We hope for a smooth completion of the legislative process," the spokesman at the environment ministry said. He decline to say when Poland will send the ratification to the United Nations.

The Paris accord, signed by almost 200 nations in December, aims to slash greenhouse gas emissions by shifting away from fossil fuels to limit global warming to "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial times.

EU nations Germany, France, Portugal, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Malta formally joined up on Wednesday, adding to major emitters led by China and the United States.

The EU ratifications pushed support for the pact to nations representing 58.82 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, above a threshold for entry into force of 55 percent. In total, 73 countries out of 195 have ratified the agreement, according to the U.N. website.

(Source- <http://indianexpress.com/article/world/world-news/poland-parliament-ratified-the-paris-climate-change-agreement-3068958/>, published on 7th October, 2016)

Quote of the day

'I feel the capacity to care is the thing which gives life its deepest significance.' -Pablo Casals