

SUGAR

Karnataka: Cane cultivation area comes down by 14%

With two consecutive droughts, sugarcane cultivation area in the district has come down considerably, especially in Athani and Raibag taluks abutting Maharashtra border.

The area covered under sugarcane cultivation in the district, the sugar bowl of state, has come down by 14 percent from 2.15 lakh hectares in 2015 to 1.88 lakh hectares for the current year. The reduction of 27,000 hectares is not a welcome sign for the sugar industry which is the main contributor to the district's economy. Currently, there are 22 sugar mills in the district and most of them have increased their crushing capacity.

According to sources from the agriculture department, drought and depleted underground watertable are the main reasons for sugarcane area reduction. Generally, new sugarcane plantation is taken up during November and December. But with the district reeling under a severe water crisis last year, especially areas in the Krishna river belt covering Athani, Raibag and part of Chikkodi taluk, farmers either dropped or postponed sugarcane cultivation.

However, Venkataramareddy Patil, joint director, agriculture department, begs to differ. He says farmers haven't stopped cultivating sugarcane. "Farmers who didn't take up sugarcane cultivation due to drought in November, did it in June and July. Besides, most of the sugarcane produced in Athani taluk is exported to Maharashtra. I don't think sugarcane area reduction has affected existing sugar factories in the district."

(Source- <http://sugarnews.in/cane-cultivation-area-comes-down-by-14/>, published on 8th August, 2016)

Dhampur Sugar consolidated Jun '16 sales at Rs 495.37 crore

Dhampur Sugar Mills has reported a consolidated total income from operations of Rs 495.37 crore and a net profit of Rs 33.08 crore for the quarter ended Jun '16. For the quarter ended Jun 2015 the consolidated total income from operations was Rs 511.73 crore and net loss was Rs 88.11 crore. Dhampur Sugar shares closed at 123.10 on August 05, 2016 (BSE) and has given 90.70% returns over the last 6 months and 262.06% over the last 12 months.

(Source- sugarnews.in/dhampur-sugar-consolidated-jun-16-sales-at-rs-495-37-crore/ , published on 9th August, 2016)

Sugar prices fall on ample stocks, weak demand

Sugar prices settled lower by Rs 30 per quintal at the wholesale market in the national capital today following ample supplies from mills amid muted demand from bulk consumers.

Marketmen said besides slackened demand from bulk consumers such as soft drinks and ice-cream makers, higher supplies from millers mainly led to fall in sweetener prices.

Sugar ready M-30 and S-30 prices eased by Rs 30 each to Rs 3,900-4,000 and Rs 3,890-3,990 per quintal respectively.

Mill delivery M-30 and S-30 prices were also down by Rs 10 each to Rs 3,640-3,700 and Rs 3,630-3,690 per quintal respectively.

In the millgate section, sugar Dhampur declined by Rs 30 to Rs 3,610 followed by Budhana, Thanabhavan and Khatuli by Rs 25 each to Rs 3,640, Rs 3,635 and Rs 3,685 per quintal respectively.

Following are today's quotations (in Rs per quintal)

Sugar retail markets - Rs 41.00-43.00 per kg.

Sugar ready: M-30 Rs 3,900-4,000, S-30 Rs 3,890-3,990.

Mill delivery: M-30 Rs 3,640-3,700, S-30 Rs 3,630-3,690.

Sugar millgate (including duty): Mawana Rs 3,660, Kinnoni Rs 3,700, Asmoli Rs 3,660, Doralda Rs 3,650, Budhana Rs 3,640, Thanabhavan Rs 3,635, Dhanora Rs 3,640, Simbholi Rs 3,690, Khatuli Rs 3,685, Dhampur Rs 3,610, Ramala Rs 3,640, Anupshaher Rs 3,630, Baghpat Rs 3,660, Morna Rs 3,660, Sakoti Rs 3,640, Chandpur Rs 3,630, Nazibabad Rs 3,640 and Malakpur Rs N.T.

(Source- http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sugar-prices-fall-on-ample-stocks-weak-demand-116080800751_1.html, published on 8th August, 2016)

Co-gen/Power

30 coal mines allocated to private sector in three tranches of auction: Govt

Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply that Under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, 75 coal mines (31 by way of auction and 44 by way of allotment) have been allocated so far.

The number of coal mines allocated to private sector in the three tranches of auction for utilization in specified end uses i.e. Power (Regulated Sector) and Steel, Cement, Captive Power Production (Non-Regulated Sector) is 30, out of a total of 31.

Goyal added that the enabling provisions have been made in the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulations) Act, 1957 for allocation of coal mines/blocks by way of auction and allotment inter alia for sale of coal.

In the financial year 2015-16 and 2016-17, 8.488 Million Tonnes (Provisional) of coal has been produced, he said.

(Source- <http://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/30-coal-mines-allocated-to-private-sector-in-three-tranches-of-auction-govt/53541157>, published on 4th August, 2016)

UP's energy deficit has reduced on increased power supply:Govt

Uttar Pradesh, where the power situation is "serious", witnessed a steep decline in energy deficit as more electricity was supplied to the state from central generating stations, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said today.

Around 6,544 million units of additional power was supplied to Uttar Pradesh in 2015-16. As a result, the state's energy deficit came down from 15.6 per cent to 3.2 per cent, Goyal told the Lok Sabha during Question Hour.

The Power Minister said this has happened in one year as electricity supply was increased about 20 per cent to the state from central generating stations.

When a member asked why in certain places the name Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana is not displayed, Goyal said despite directions it has not been done.

After coming to power, the NDA government renamed the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana as Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana.

In a written reply, Goyal said the government has specified norms and standards for reduction in specific energy consumption for energy intensive sectors

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/08/ups-energy-deficit-has-reduced-on-increased-power-supplygovt/>, published on 5th August, 2016)

12 major ports propose 83 MW solar power plants

India's 12 major ports plan to set up 83 MW solar photovoltaic power plant projects from their own resources, Parliament was informed today.

"The Government proposes to implement utility-scale solar photovoltaic power plant projects at various major ports across the country. The funds for establishment of solar power projects are arranged by the major ports from their own resources and no funds have been released from the ministry," Minister of State for Shipping Pon Radhakrishnan said in a written reply.

Of the 82.64 MW capacity, Vizag, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and New Mangalore ports have set up 6.84 MW projects so far, he said.

The step is part of the Green Port Initiative launched by the Ministry of Shipping, Radhakrishnan informed the Lok Sabha.

Its objectives include contributing to reduction in carbon emissions and consequently improving environment besides reducing cost of power purchased from grid by utilisation of solar power for power generation.

India has 12 major ports -- Kandla, Mumbai, JNPT, Marmugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Ennore, V O Chidambarnar, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia) which handle approximately 61 per cent of the country's total cargo traffic.

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/08/12-major-ports-propose-83-mw-solar-power-plants/>, published on 5th August, 2016)

Govt considering final recommendation on coal royalty

The final recommendations of study group constituted to consider revision of rate of royalty on coal is under the consideration of government.

"A study group has been constituted to consider the revision of rate of royalty. Final recommendation of study group is under consideration," Coal and Power Minister Piyush Goyal said in a written reply Rajya Sabha today.

The government has received request from Chhattisgarh to increase the rate of royalty from existing 14 per cent to 30 per cent, the Minister further said.

He also stated that the rate of royalty on coal is same for both power and non-power sectors.

(Source- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Govt-considering-final-recommendation-on-coal-royalty/articleshow/53602916.cms>, published on 8th August, 2016)

Quote of the day

'Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going.' - Sam Levenson