

## SUGAR

### Sufficient stock to keep sugar price under check, says Ram Vilas Paswan

The country has ample stock of sugar and its price will remain under check, Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Thursday.

In a statement issued by the ministry after a review meeting, Paswan said the country has started with a carryover stock of 7.71 million tonnes of sugar in the current sugar season 2016-17.

“The production of sugar has been estimated at about 22.52 million tonnes in the current sugar season. While domestic consumption is estimated at about 25.5 million tonnes, the stock position at the close of the current season (September 2017) is likely to be 4.73 million tonnes, which will be carried forward for the next sugar season 2017-18,” Paswan said. “Thus, the total availability of sugar in the country would be sufficient to meet domestic consumption (demand).”

Sugar production in the next season (2017-18) is not only expected to be good but also likely to start early and, therefore, there will be no shortage of domestically produced sugar in India, the minister said. “By November 2017, another 2 million tonnes would be available from early crushing.”

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/sufficient-stock-to-keep-sugar-price-under-check-says-ram-vilas-paswan/>, published on 10th November, 2016)

### Govt pegs 2016-17 sugar output at 22.52 MT; down 10.27%

Though, India's sugar production in 2016-17 season (from October to September) that started from previous month is expected to be around 10.27% less than last year at around 22.52 million tonnes (MT), but there won't be any shortage of the commodity in the domestic markets, food minister Ramvilas Paswan said on Thursday.

The country's sugar production had declined to 25.1 MT in the 2015-16 season due to drought in major growing states.

Paswan on Thursday reviewed prices and availability of sugar in the country in a meeting with senior officials of his ministry.

After the meeting, the Minister said, “The production of sugar has been estimated at about 22.52 MT in the current sugar season.”

It may be noted that the government's sugar production estimates for this year are lower than 23.26 MT pegged by Indian Sugar Mills Association.

The sugar estimates for this year have been finalised after a recent meeting with sugar commissioners of cane growing states.

Despite expected drop in sugar output for the second straight year, Paswan said, “Total availability in the country would be sufficient to meet the domestic consumption.” While the

domestic sugar consumption is estimated at about 25.5 MT, the stock position at the close of the 2016-17 season is likely to be at 4.73 MT, which will be carried forward for the next season, he added.

The Minister also said the government has taken necessary steps to maintain sufficient stocks in the country and keep the sugar prices under check.

Sugar production is estimated to fall in 2016-17 season because of likely decline in sugarcane output in key growing states like Maharashtra, on account of drought during most of the 2015-16 season.

However, in the next 2017-18 season, Paswan said, "Sugar production is expected to be good and is likely to start early and therefore there will be no shortage of domestically produced sugar in India."

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/govt-pegs-2016-17-sugar-output-at-22-52-mt-down-10-27/>, published on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2016)

### **Relief likely for sugarcane farmers as Tamil Nadu power board pays sugar mills**

Sugarcane farmers in Tamil Nadu protesting over dues from sugar mills have relief headed their way as the state electricity board has begun clearing payments to sugar mills.

Arrears to Rs 300 crore, outstanding till a few days ago for tallying the co-generated power that sugar mills supplied to the state electricity grid, have begun flowing into the coffers of sugar factories.

Multiple sugar mill owners confirmed that a substantial portion of tranche would be directed toward paying back sugarcane farmers, who have been under tremendous stress over the past three sugar seasons after prices of the sweetener crashed.

The downward spiral in sugar prices and a high debt position had led to mills owing farmers about Rs 225 crore of the Centre's Fair and Remunerative Price.

If the additional cane price component mandated by the state is considered, the dues are multiple times higher. "We have cleared all bills up to May 2016. The aggregate amount would be close to Rs 300 crore," an official with the state power utility Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company (Tangedco) told ET.

The electricity board had held a meeting with representatives from sugar mills to discuss the payment a day ahead of Diwali.

Sugar mill owners maintain that the electricity board's action will bring relief but the long-term solution lies in viewing the sugar industry purely as market-determined.

"It (EB's payments) will go some way in making statutory payments towards the Fair and Remunerative Price," said Palani G Periyasamy, the president of South Indian Sugar Mills Association and the executive chairman at Dharani SugarsBSE -5.22 %.

"Sugar as a commodity is controlled by market forces. Essentially, an issue in the field of

economics need not be dragged into politics," he added.

In Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, unlike other sugar producing states such as Karnataka and Maharashtra, the state government decides the rate sugar mills, both private and government-owned cooperatives, should pay the cane farmers.

Over the past three sugar seasons, a severe oversupply condition hammered down sugar prices, but mills had to deal with elevated cane prices and mounting arrears payable to cane farmers.

(Source- <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/relief-likely-for-sugarcane-farmers-as-tamil-nadu-power-board-pays-sugar-mills/articleshow/55219476.cms>, published on 3rd November, 2016)

## Co-gen/Power

### Panel appointed to address power sector problems

In an attempt to reach out to the electorate, the Congress in Rajasthan has appointed a State-level committee to draw the government's attention to problems caused by repeated revisions in power tariffs and alleged irregularities rampant in the power sector.

The committee, headed by State Congress president Sachin Pilot, will deliberate on the issues involved in the power sector and formulate an action plan to exert pressure on the State government for bringing about changes in policy decisions.

State Congress vice-president Archana Sharma said on Thursday that the common people were facing the burden of unwarranted tariff revisions.

(Source-<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/panel-appointed-to-address-power-sector-problems/article9331606.ece>, published on 11th November, 2016)

### PM to open global sugarcane meet in Pune on Sunday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive here on Sunday afternoon for a brief visit to inaugurate a four-day international conference and exhibition on sugarcane value chain, an official said here on Friday.

"Modi will throw open a global conference and exhibition on 'Sugarcane Value Chain - Vision 2025 Sugar', organised by the Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI), in Manjari-Budruk, Pune," he said.

Modi will be accompanied by Governor C.V. Rao, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Union ministers Radha Mohan Singh and Prakash Javadekar, and state ministers Chandrakant Patil, Girish Bapat, Pandurang Fundkar and Subhash Deshmukh.

The Prime Minister will depart from the state after the event the same evening.

Established in 1975, the renowned VSI is an autonomous body set up by sugar cooperatives with a mission to effect improvement in the socio-economic status of sugarcane farmers.

This is done by providing them cutting-edge technologies through scientific research related to sugarcane and its products.

The four-day international conference and expo during November 13-16 will attract around 1,500 delegates from across the world, who will speak on different aspects of the sugarcane value chain.

The exhibition will showcase various technological developments in sugar industry, live demonstrations of sugarcane crops showing advanced technologies and cultivation practices implemented.

The event is being held to commemorate the birth centenary celebrations of the late Vasantdada Patil, who was three-time Chief Minister of Maharashtra and also served as Rajasthan Governor.

Credited with immense contributions in the fields of education and the cooperative movement, Patil died at the age of 72 in March 1989.

**(Source-[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/pm-to-open-global-sugarcane-meet-in-pune-on-sunday-116111101551\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/pm-to-open-global-sugarcane-meet-in-pune-on-sunday-116111101551_1.html), published on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2016)**

### **2MW solar panels to power WR suburban stations in 6 months**

To reduce carbon footprint, the Western Railway will soon have solar panels at around 30 locations— with a total capacity of 2 MW—that will provide power for its non-traction work. This will help WR reduce its dependence on energy from coal-fired plants by around 10% and save lakhs of rupees in power bill.

WR's Mumbai division requires 25 lakh units per month for non-traction work, which is purchased from BEST or Maharashtra state Electricity Distribution Company Ltd at an average of Rs 10 per unit. "We may soon sign a power purchase agreement (PPA) with a firm that has offered to provide power at Rs 5 per unit," WR's chief public relations officer Ravindar Bhakar said.

"It is a win-win situation as the railways is not going to spend any money-on installation or maintenance. These solar panel will installed on rooftops across 30 locations on Mumbai suburban division."

Explaining the system, a senior official said, "The stations will first use the electricity from the solar power system, and if there is a shortfall it will switch to power from BEST or other whichever the power supply firm is." In case, the consumption is less, it will lead of surplus, which will be given to the grid of the supplier.

**(Source-<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/2MW-solar-panels-to-power-WR-suburban-stations-in-6-months/articleshow/55378982.cms>, published on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2016)**

## **Power guzzlers are now looking to the sun and wind**

Computers, air-conditioners and lights running for hours at end, are easily categorised as 'power guzzlers.' But a growing number of corporates and IT companies are now looking to the sun and wind to bring down their energy expenses.

These companies are waking up to the benefits of accommodating renewable energy as a major source of power, switching over to it as a partial alternative to power generated from conventional sources of energy. With many of them being vertical structures lacking the space for rooftop facilities, they are open to purchasing renewable energy.

For example, Mindtree's Whitefield facility will be powered mainly by solar energy soon. Padmanabhan L. Kannan, General Manager and Head – Admin and Facilities, Mindtree, told The Hindu that of the approximately 3,30,000 units that the facility consumes each month, 75 per cent (2,50,000 units) will be powered through solar energy that the company is buying from a private solar farm.

### **Wind energy**

The Prestige Group too is working on taking the wheeling and banking route to power its office properties and malls using wind energy. V. Gopal, Executive Director, Projects and Planning, Prestige Group, said these were two categories of properties that generated huge electricity bills, mainly because of air-conditioning and other electrical loads. "We will have about 80 per cent of our office properties in southern cities, including Bengaluru, use wind energy that we are purchasing soon. Our malls too will be catering to nearly 80 per cent of their energy needs using wind energy in about six months' time," he added.

### **Buying power**

With power consumers in the State having put up with a steady rise in electricity tariffs over the past few years, in addition to erratic supply of power — a commodity that Karnataka has often faced a shortage of — private players generating clean energy are seeing a sizeable number of companies come forward to buy power from them. What these companies stand to gain is not just the satisfaction of using clean energy, but also monetary savings.

High tension (HT) consumers under the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescm) pay higher tariffs for power from the power utility. Through open access with wheeling and banking, they are purchasing renewable energy at little investment and for a tariff lower than conventional energy.

Under the model, a developer generates power at a solar or wind farm, which is credited to large consumers such as IT companies, industries and large hotels.

"Bescm's tariffs range from Rs. 6.7 per unit for industrial consumers to Rs. 8.4 per unit for commercial consumers. In Karnataka, the charges for solar power through open access would range from Rs. 5.50 to Rs. 6, depending on the contract duration and other terms. There is no

investment required from the customer, as the entire investment is made by the developer," said Andrew Hines, Business Development Head, South, CleanMax Solar Private Limited.

(Source-<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/power-guzzlers-are-now-looking-to-the-sun-and-wind/article9336289.ece>, published on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2016)

## **ETHANOL**

### **Ethanol mixed fuel to be used for public transportation: CM Devendra Fadnavis**

Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said a pilot project involving use of ethanol mixed fuel for public transportation would be launched shortly.

Inaugurating the crushing season of a sugar mill at Chitte Pimpalgaon near Aurangabad, Fadnavis said the government was also formulating a policy to make proper market available for carrying out sale of ethanol.

"The state government has purchased 200 new buses for the purpose of public transport exclusively for female commuters. These buses would be run on ethanol mixed fuel in identified cities shortly as a pilot project," he said, terming the move as one of the measures for promoting ethanol.

Fadnavis also urged sugar factories to go for ethanol and other by-products. "The sugar mills should not stick to traditional approach of producing sugar alone but also go for generating by-products such as ethanol. Mumbai has recently become an ethanol free market following waiver in local tax," he said.

According to experts, ethyl alcohol or ethanol can either be produced by direct fermentation of sugarcane juice or from molasses – a by-product of the sugar manufacturing process.

(Source- <http://sugarnews.in/ethanol-mixed-fuel-to-be-used-for-public-transportation-cm-devendra-fadnavis/>, published on 11th November, 2016)

### **Quote of the day**

'Hope lies in dreams, in imagination and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality.'- Jonas Salk