

NEWS FLASH – 15th FEBRUARY, 2016

SUGAR

Sugar factory to pay cane growers in 15 days

The Karnataka State Sugarcane Growers' Association has said that a private sugar factory has agreed to pay sugarcane growers for the cane supplied this crushing season in the next 15 days.

The association claimed that this was a victory to the farmers' struggle.

Kuruburu Shanth Kumar, president of the association, said that a large number of farmers had decided to hold demonstrations and picket the residence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah last Friday seeking payment for the sugarcane supplied to mills.

However, the police prevented them from holding a demonstration outside Mr. Siddaramaiah's residence.

Later, the sugarcane growers were invited for a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office. H.S. Mahadeva Prasad, Cooperation Minister, after hearing patiently to the grievances of farmers, assured the farmers' association that he would see to it that farmers are paid their dues in 15 days.

Mr. Shanth Kumar said that the management of a private sugar factory had agreed to settle the bills of the sugarcane growers within 15 days.

He further said that the sugar factory owes Rs. 78 crore to the farmers for the cane supplied in the last six months.

Mr. Shanth Kumar also demanded that the State government make it mandatory for the sugar factories to pay sugarcane growers within 15 days of them supplying the sugarcane.

(Source – This article was published in The Hindu dated February 15, 2016. <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/sugar-factory-to-pay-cane-growers-in-15-days/article8239624.ece>)

COGEN

Unregulated sectors: Coal Ministry not to renew supply pacts that end this fiscal

Slowly but steadily the Centre is moving towards making coal purchase a transparent procedure, as all other sectors, except fertiliser, have to buy through a bidding system. The Centre will not renew fuel supply agreements of the unregulated sectors of steel, cement, aluminium, and captive power plants, among others, that are ending this fiscal.

Around 10 million tonnes of fuel supply agreements are expiring in 2015-16.

"We want to make the sourcing system transparent. This we want to do by asking the buyers to source fuel through the auction route. To begin with, we have decided not to renew the fuel supply agreements for the unregulated sectors that are ending this fiscal. However, we are not terminating any agreements prematurely," Coal Secretary Anil Swarup told BusinessLine.

The Cabinet, on February 3, had agreed to give fresh coal linkages to the unregulated sectors only through auctions.

In the coal linkage auctions, the Ministry will also put 14 million tonnes of the fuel from incremental production of Coal India during 2015-16. During the fiscal, Coal India is expected to produce 550 million tonnes of coal or 56 million tonnes more than 2014-15.

Incremental output

Explaining incremental output, Swarup said, every year 25 per cent of additional output of Coal India over the previous year's production will also be added to the coal linkage auction pool. Therefore, the total quantity to be auctioned for unregulated sectors will be 24 million tonnes (10 million tonnes of expired FSAs and 14 million tonnes of incremental production).

He further added that in 2016-17, Coal India is expected to produce 600 million tonnes, an increase of 50 million tonnes from the current year.

Therefore, of the total production, more than 150 million tonnes will go to unregulated sector (25 per cent of 600 million tonnes).

For the power sector also the government has started work on similar lines, but with a focus on efficiency as has been done for natural gas.

On the recently concluded auctions of coal mines, Swarup said, of the 28 coal mines that have been auctioned in three rounds so far, 10 have started production and around 7 million tonnes of coal has already been mined.

"The upfront amount collected through auctions has already been transferred to the States while the monthly royalty and mining amount is being sent directly to the state governments," he pointed out.

Having increased the availability of coal, Swarup said that the focus is now on quality. "From January 1, 100 per cent of coal crushing is happening. This takes care of the quality as after crushing, the stones are easily taken out. Also, third party coal sampling has started according to the new guidelines," he said.

(Source-<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/macro-economy/unregulated-sectors-coal-ministry-not-to-renew-supply-pacts-that-end-this-fiscal/article8237565.ece>)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY:

"Life isn't about building walls and hiding behind them. It's about breaking them down and expanding beyond them!" – Anonymous

HEALTH TIP OF THE DAY:

Apple fruit contains good quantities of vitamin-C and beta-carotene. Vitamin C is a powerful natural antioxidant. Consumption of foods rich in vitamin C helps the body develop resistance against infectious agents and scavenge harmful, pro-inflammatory free radicals from the body.