

SUGAR

Farmers paid directly into their accounts for cane: Ugar Sugar

Demonetisation has not impacted Ugar Sugar much as payments for sugar cane are directly made into the farmers' account, says Niraj Shirgaokar, MD of the company. In an interview with CNBC-TV18 he said that while Q2 was a difficult quarter, the company aims to increase its sugar and alcohol production in the remaining two quarters of the fiscal.

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/farmers-paid-directly-into-their-accounts-for-cane-ugar-sugar/>, published on 16th November, 2016)

Tamil Nadu pulls up private sugar mills over dues

India's fourth-largest sugar producer, Tamil Nadu, has begun sending notices to private sugar producers holding outstanding dues to farmers amid a climate of growing clamour from political parties and farmers' protests recently. The notices constitute the latest push from the government to make sugar mills pay dues to sugarcane farmers.

Earlier, the state electricity board had begun releasing pending payments of Rs 300 crore due to sugar mills for supplying power, which in return could help mills pay back farmers.

"This year, we are increasing the pressure on sugar mills to pay up. At least, the dues with regard to the Fair and Remunerative Price set up by the Centre need to be settled. All district collectors have been asked to engage with mills in their jurisdiction," Mahesan Kasirajan, Commissioner, Directorate of Sugar, told ET.

The state government has sent the notices under the Revenue Recovery Act, the law that enables revenue officials to appropriate properties to retrieve land revenue.

"The cane dues owed to the farmers are now being treated as they are owed to the state...last year, one mill in Cuddalore district was sealed shut, which sent out a message. This time around, we are stepping up the action," he said.

The stringent measures follow a demonstration by farmers in Chennai just ahead of Diwali last month. The protest received support from leader of opposition MK Stalin, who sent a sharply worded statement that pegged total dues to farmers at ₹2,000 crore, taking into account private and state-run mills. Farmers' associations estimate dues from private mills at well over ₹1,000 crore if the State-adviced Price is considered.

For the 2015-16 sugar year, the SAP had been fixed at ₹2,850 a tonne, a price that debt-laden sugar mills say they would find difficult to pay despite continuous increases in sugar prices over the last 10 months.

On the part of sugar mills, representatives say the price increases need to sustain even longer for them to make profits.

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/tamil-nadu-pulls-up-private-sugar-mills-over-dues/>, published on 16th November, 2016)

Sugar output up by almost 2% to 7.87 lakh tonnes: ISMA

India's sugar production has increased marginally by nearly two per cent to reach 7.87 lakh tonnes compared to last year, mainly on account of early crushing in states like Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, an industry body today said.

India's sugar production has increased marginally by nearly two percent to reach 7.87 lakh tonnes compared to last year, mainly on account of early crushing in states like Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, an industry body today said. "Sugar mills have produced 15,000 tonnes more till November 15 this year at 7.87 lakh tonne against 7.72 lakh tonne in the same period last year," Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said here. Sugar marketing year runs from October to September. This is mainly because sugar mills in UP and Karnataka have started earlier than their usual time, it added. As on November 15, 222 mills have started crushing against 175 in 2015-16 sugar season (SS) same time last year.

Sugar mills in UP have advanced commencement of their crushing operations this season by a fortnight compared to 2015-16. As on November 15, 55 sugar mills have been working and they have produced 1.93 lakh tonne, compared to 15,000 tonne in the same period last year, when only six mills were operational. In Maharashtra, sugar mills began operations after November 5, while in 2015-16, the mills started their crushing in October 15. About 95 sugar mills were in operation as on November 15, and they have produced 1.12 lakh tonnes of sugar compared to 4.31 lakh tonnes produced by 114 sugar mills on the corresponding period last year. In Karnataka, 38 out of 65 sugar mills have commenced their crushing operations from November 15, against 30 sugar mills in the same period last year. Till November 15, sugar production in the state was at 3.76 lakh tonnes against 1.60 lakh tonnes in the same period last year. About 17 sugar mills in Gujarat have started crushing operations and have produced 62,000 tonnes of sugar compared to 16 mills in the state with 1.21 lakh tonnes till November 15, 2015. In case of Tamil Nadu, 4 sugar mills were in operation as on November 15, and they have produced 30,000 tonnes compared to 40,000 tonnes produced by 6 mills in the same period last year. Four mills in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana commenced their crushing producing 5,000 tonne of sugar till November 15, compared to 2 mills last year producing same amount during the same period.

(Source-http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/sugar-outputby-almost-2-to-787-lakh-tonnes-isma_7980801.html, published on 18th November, 2016)

UP: Three farmers injured in clash at sugar mill

Three farmers were injured in a clash allegedly with sugar mill employees due to a delay in weighing of their crop at Thana Bhawan in Shamli district, police said Tuesday.

The clash occurred last evening when the farmers had gone to the sugar mill to get their crops weighed. They got into an argument with the employees over delay in weighing of their crop, they said. This led to a clash in which stones were also pelted.

The injured, identified as Altamas, Mohad and Shahrukh, were rushed to a hospital.

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/up-three-farmers-injured-in-clash-at-sugar-mill/>, published on 16th November, 2016)

Karnataka Govt. keen on reviving Mysugar mill

Minister for Housing M. Krishnappa said the State government is keen on reviving the State-run Mysore Sugar Company Ltd. (Mysugar mill) to provide much-needed relief to sugarcane growers in the region.

He was addressing mediapersons after participating in the Press Day celebrations organised by Mandya District Union of Working Journalists on Tuesday. Mr. Krishnappa, who is also the district in-charge Minister, said that he has already discussed developing the mill, which had stopped crushing activities two seasons ago, with Minister for Cooperation and Sugar H.S. Mahadeva Prasad.

"I have kept my word and ensured water reaches the tail-end regions in Maddur taluk. I will strive to improve facilities and implement developmental projects in the district after discussing the same with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah," he said. He also assured the people that he would work for the comprehensive development of Mandya district.

'Focus on development'

Earlier, addressing the gathering, he stressed upon the need for the media to focus on the development of society rather than on personal or family disputes.

Five journalists were felicitated on the occasion.

'Have discussed about developing the mill, which stopped crushing activities two seasons ago'

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/karnataka-govt-keen-on-reviving-mysugar-mill/>, published on 16th November, 2016)

Farmers demand reopening of Nizam sugar factory

Hundreds of sugarcane farmers from across the district staged a protest at Metpally mandal on Tuesday demanding reopening of Nizam Deccan Sugar Factory which remains closed since last December.

Farmers tried to take out a rally from Muthyampet to Jagtial and submit a representation to the collector but the police stopped them at Metpally mandal headquarters.

The police arrested former Congress MLAs Komireddy Ramulu and Katakam Mruthyunjam who joined the agitation. However, they were released later on personal sureties.

Earlier, Congress leaders including former Assembly speaker KR Suresh Reddy, former minister P Sudarshan Reddy, MLAs Komireddy Ramulu and Katkam Mruthyunjayam extended their support to the sugarcane cultivators.

Suresh Reddy said that after Telangana was formed, the sugarcane farmers expected the government to revive the sugar factory, but even after two years the government has not taken any steps to do so.

"Over 4,000 sugarcane farmers who depend on this sugar factory are facing problem as now they do not have buyers," he said.

Sugarcane Farmers Association president M Naryana Reddy requested the government to take measures to revive the factory. "Sugarcane farmers of the region are facing problem since last December after the factory management announced the closure. The farmers still await the payment of transportation bill of Rs. 1.5 crore," he claimed.

Sugarcane farmers of Kammarpally in Nizamabad district, Ibrahimpatnam, Mallapur, Korutla, Medipally and Kathalapur also participated in the protest.

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/farmers-demand-reopening-of-nizam-sugar-factory/>, published on 16th November, 2016)

Karnataka: 2,500- 3,150 for a tonne of sugarcane

After weeks of deliberations, the state government on Tuesday fixed Rs 2,500-Rs 3,150 as fair and remunerative price (FRP) for a tonne of sugarcane.

The rate was fixed at the meeting held by the Karnataka Sugarcane Control Board, comprising ministers, officials and farmer leaders.

"Keeping in mind the sugar price and the cost of production, the government has decided to fix Rs 2,500-Rs 3,100 as FRP for a tonne of sugarcane depending on the grade and quality," cooperation minister HS Mahadeva Prasad said.

The issue had been pending for many days as growers and factory owners were unable to agree to each other's demands. This also led to agitations in north Karnataka.

However, the farmers' associations are not happy because of the delay in announcing the price. When Maharashtra government announced FRP a few weeks ago, desperate farmers here had no choice but to sell their produce to sugar factories in the neighbouring state.

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/karnataka-2500-3150-for-a-tonne-of-sugarcane/>, published on 16th November, 2016)

COGEN

India Power completes acquisition of Nellore power plant

India Power Corp. Ltd, a Srei Group company, on Wednesday said it has concluded the purchase of Meenakshi Energy Pvt. Ltd, a 1,000 (megawatt) MW power plant at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh.

The company bought the plant from Engie Group of France for \$1. The deal was agreed upon in late February, said India Power chairman Hemant Kanoria. The Srei Group, which is invested in the infrastructure finance business, took over the erstwhile DPSC Ltd from state-owned Andrew Yule and Co. Ltd and renamed it India Power, following a merger with a group firm. It has revamped the company's generation capacity and is now expanding the business by acquiring new plants.

The company has already commissioned 300 MW of generation capacity at Nellore and the remaining 700 MW will be ready by the middle of next year, Kanoria said. The Engie Group was struggling to run the plant and also wanted to reduce its carbon footprint, according to Kanoria.

Meenakshi Power has a consolidated debt of Rs2,800 crore, of which the company still has around Rs1,600 crore in its treasury. It will spend around Rs600 crore to commission the remaining 700 MW of generation capacity and still have around Rs1,000 crore left to meet working capital needs, Kanoria said.

The plant at Nellore is to run on coal imported from Indonesia. India Power is looking to acquire more stressed assets like Meenakshi Power and a team headed by Kanoria's son Raghav Raj Kanoria, a director, is examining proposals from lenders.

India Power is set to commission the first unit of its 450 MW power plant in Haldia in West Bengal. The plant will start generating 150 MW from the end of December, the chairman said. This unit too will be run on imported coal.

Both the plants will be managed by India Power's 50:50 joint venture with Germany's Uniper Kraftwerke GmbH, which was launched two months ago. The joint venture will provide the technology for improving operational efficiency at Indian thermal power plants. India Power is also looking to expand its distribution business and has applied for new licences in West Bengal's East Midnapore district and Gurgaon in Haryana, Kanoria said. It currently supplies power in some parts of West Bengal and Bihar.

(Source-<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/hd5IAqCgjl8Z9lkwahCcNP/India-Power-completes-acquisition-of-Nellore-power-plant.html>, published on 17th November, 2016)

Telangana ready for debate on power sharing agreements

Minister for Energy G. Jagadish Reddy has lashed out at those 'inimical' to the interests of Telangana and making baseless allegations against the Telangana State power utilities and employees.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, Mr. Jagadish Reddy challenged that they were ready for any debate on the power sharing arrangements between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The transparency adopted by Telangana Government in PPAs was public knowledge and even a lineman in the energy department could elaborate on this, he said.

Jealous of rapid strides being made by Telangana and its reputation as a State with no political corruption, some neighbouring States and their agents in Telangana were repeatedly indulging in false propoganda, the Minister alleged.

These agents claimed that the Telangana Government was refusing to buy power offered by AP power utilities at lower rates while in reality Andhra Pradesh evaded giving 53.89 per cent of power generated by AP power projects to Telangana in violation of AP State Reorganisation Act provisions. It had also cancelled the PPAs of Krishnapatnam and Hindujas soon after bifurcation to create problems for Telangana, he recalled.

However Telangana Chief Minister and the officials of power utilities ensured that the power sector was back on track within two years.

Mr. Jagadish Reddy said AP had not only failed to give power due to Telangana at Rs.3.97 per unit but quoted Rs.5.30 per unit when State invited tenders to purchase 2,000 MW of power. When others quoted Rs.4.63 per unit, it quoted Rs.4.62 but failed to supply power when TS Genco officials agreed for it. Finally after waiting in vain for AP to supply power, Telangana power utilities entered into agreements with other companies.

Mr. Jagadish Reddy said agents of neighbouring State tried to create hurdles for Bhadradi power project when TSGENCO entered into agreement with BHEL and Centre gave permission to complete sub-critical technology plants in the country including those in Telangana by March 2017. Though some filed petition in National Green Tribunal against Bhadradi, the NGT vacated the stay order..

He also said the government was expecting environmental clearance soon from Union Ministry of Environment and Forests for both the Bhadradi and Yadadi projects.

(Source-<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/telangana-ready-for-debate-on-power-sharing-agreements/article9351181.ece>, published on 16th November, 2016)

India's solar power generation capacity at 8.7 GW: Piyush Goyal

Addition of 1,964.76 MW in the first seven months of the current fiscal has taken the total solar power generation capacity in the country to 8,727.62 MW, Parliament was informed today.

"As on October 31, 2016, Solar Energy Projects with an aggregate capacity of over 8727.62 MW have been installed in the country," New and Renewable Energy Minister Piyush Goyal said in written reply to Lok Sabha today.

In another reply, the minister stated that 1,964.76 MW of solar power generation capacity has been added in the country till October end of this financial year.

During last fiscal, 3,018.88 MW of solar power generation capacity was added in the country.

Goyal said the World Bank has recently approved a total amount of \$ 625 million consisting of World Bank loan of \$ 500 million, Clean Technology Fund (CTF) loan of \$ 120 million and a CTF grant of \$ 5 million for grid-connected rooftop solar programme.

He said his ministry has also submitted a proposal to the Finance Ministry for \$ 200 million World Bank financing for internal infrastructure development of solar parks.

He also informed the House that an agreement for the rooftop loan was signed between the World Bank and the State Bank of India on June 30, 2016.

Under this agreement the World Bank loan is taken by the SBI. Therefore SBI provides loan through its branches for installation of rooftop solar systems, he added.

The minister also informed the House in a separate reply that the government is considering the removal of distinction between large and small hydro (up to 25 MW).

At present, small hydro projects of up to 25 MW are considered as renewable energy and are eligible for various incentives under different schemes of the government.

(Source-<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/indias-solar-power-generation-capacity-at-8-7-gw-piyush-goyal/articleshow/55477171.cms>, published on 17th November, 2016)

Quote of the day

'Generosity consists not the sum given, but the manner in which it is bestowed.'

-Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi