

SUGAR

Sugar prices stable despite heavy selling by mills

Sugar prices have remained stable despite heavy selling by Maharashtra mills since the Central government imposed stock limit on mills. Buying by traders for supplying to the public distribution system, demand for Durga Puja and bullish sentiment due to the long gap in rainfall in cane-growing areas helped mills make the quota sales.

The Centre has asked sugar mills to keep only 37% of their production by September-end and 24% by October end. "Rise in international markets, good festive demand for sweetener along with expectations of stronger demand with series of festivals ahead supported prices. However, mixed sentiments in spot markets and appreciation in rupee limited gains in sugar on domestic bourses," brokerage firm Geofin Comrade said.

Internationally, the ICE future prices of raw and white sugar have risen due to a slowdown in production in Brazil that escalated worries over supply. Sugar mills will have to sell about 5 million tonnes of sugar by October 31.

(Source- <http://sugarnews.in/sugar-prices-stable-despite-heavy-selling-by-mills/>, published on 20th September, 2016)

Govt's bitter dose to sugar mills: Pay up or face action

The Punjab Government has issued a recovery certificate of Rs 115 crore against seven private sugar mills in the state, all owned by senior politicians cutting across political lines. In the wake of a tough stand taken by farmer organisations over the non-payment of their dues by sugar mills, the deputy commissioners of districts where these mills are located have been asked to recover the amount from them.

Official sources told The Tribune that the recovery certificate was issued by the Cane Commissioner, Department of Agriculture. The deputy commissioners of Kapurthala, Sangrur, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Fatehgarh Sahib and Amritsar have already declared the amount due from these sugar mills as arrears of land revenue under The Land Revenue Act, 1887, and asked the naib tehsildars concerned to issue notices for recovery.

The sugar mills are owned by Jarnail Singh Wahid (chairman of Markfed and Akali leader), Kamal Oswal (industrial adviser to CM), family of Rana Gurjit Singh (Congress MLA), family of deceased liquor baron Ponty Chadha, and Uttar Pradesh politician DP Yadav. Officials say the process to serve notices to the mills has been initiated and if a private mill fails to pay its dues, its assets can be auctioned to recover the amount.

The mill owners claim no dues are to be recovered from them. "We have already paid the dues to cane growers at the rate of Rs 245 per quintal (against the state agreed price of Rs 295 per quintal). Official letters had been issued to us by the Cane Commissioner, saying that the subsidy of Rs 50 per quintal will be given to the farmers by the government. They even paid this subsidy for November-February, amounting to Rs 125 crore and then they stopped the payment. It is the government's obligation to pay this," said a private sugar mill owner, requesting anonymity.

The Tribune had highlighted how these sugar mills were making huge profits with the soaring sugar prices as well as the government subsidy of (Rs 35-Rs 50 per quintal), which was announced for these mills at the time of low prices.

(Source- <http://sugarnews.in/govts-bitter-dose-to-sugar-mills-pay-up-or-face-action/>, 19th September, 2016)

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'Sugar output to be lower at 23-23.5 mn tonne next year'

Sugar output in India is likely to drop to 23-23.5 million tonnes in the ensuing 2016-17 season, sugar cooperative NFCSFL today said, demanding several government measures including rollback of stock limits to improve the plight of sugar mills.

While the production is likely to decline for the second straight year in 2016-17 the availability of the sweetener will be sufficient to meet domestic demand as the year will end with a carry over stock of 7.1 million tonnes, it said.

Sugar output in the current 2015-16 season (October- September) is estimated at 25.1 million tonnes (MT).

Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), which represents private sugar mills, has pegged sugar output at 23.2 MT for the next 2016-17 season, while the government has projected production to be in the range of 23-24 MT.

"Indian sugar production in 2016-17 season is estimated to be around 23-23.5 MT. The fall in sugar production is due to two straight drought in the major producing states of Maharashtra and Karnataka," National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd (NFCSFL) President Dilip Walse Patil said at the 57th Annual General Meeting here.

Sugar stocks in the country will fall to their lowest in over a decade in 2016-17 season as consumption outstrips supply, but will have the "sufficient" sugar to meet the requirement, he said.

Highlighting the poor plight of the Rs 80,000 crore sugar industry, Patil said, "There are few problems before the sugar industry which need immediate remedial solution to save the sugar industry and also sugarcane farmers."

He said the government should roll back stock holding limits imposed on sugar mills, recast bank loans, continue waiver of excise duty on ethanol, scrapping of sugar cess and special package for sugar mills among others.

On priority, Patil said, that the government should withdraw stock holding limits imposed on sugar mills for September-October period to check prices in festival season.

The government should direct RBI to recast the bank loans to match the cash flow of sugar mills and restructure outstanding loans of cooperative sugar mills, Patil said.

That apart, he demanded the government to continue import duty 40 per cent on raw sugar in the next season as well.

(Source- <http://sugarnews.in/sugar-output-to-be-lower-at-23-23-5-mn-tonne-next-year/>, published on 19th September, 2016)

Delay in agreement with MPM leaves sugarcane growers worried

The activists of the district unit of Karnataka Rajya Kabbu Belegarara Sangha staged a protest in Bhadravati on Monday demanding that the State government take necessary measures to resume production at the sugar factory of Mysore Paper Mills, a public sector unit.

Addressing the gathering, N.H. Deva Kumar, district unit president of the Sangha, said that sugarcane is cultivated on 4,000 hectares in the district and a major chunk of the farmers sell their produce to MPM.

Though sugarcane is ready for harvesting, MPM has not yet entered into a buyback agreement with the farmers this year. The delay in commencement of production at MPM has created apprehensions among the sugarcane growers, he said.

Though there is a great demand for sugarcane from the local jaggery units, farmers are eager to supply their produce to MPM as the firm has maintained transparency with regard to weighing and payment.

The legal problems regarding the resumption of production at MPM have been cleared.

The State government should immediately provide necessary financial assistance for the management of MPM to resume production, he said.

The protesters also blocked road for some time at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Circle. Kurubur Shantakumar, president of the Sangha, took part in the protest.

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/delay-in-agreement-with-mpm-leaves-sugarcane-growers-worried/>, published on 20th September, 2016)

Co-gen/Power

NTPC, EESL sign pact for energy efficient lighting solutions

State-run NTPC has entered into a pact with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) to implement energy efficient LED lighting solutions for all its projects, stations and offices across the country.

"NTPC and EESL have joined hands for implementation of energy efficient LED lighting solutions for all NTPC's projects, stations and offices across the country with an MoU signed by S K Roy, ED (OS), NTPC and A K Gupta, Director (Finance), EESL," the company said in a statement.

The objective of the MoU is to enable EESL to provide end-to-end state-of-the-art energy efficient LED lighting and solutions in accordance with the requirement of NTPC, the statement said.

EESL, a joint venture company of PSUs of Power Ministry has been designated as the implementing agency for both the programmes - Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) and Street Lights.

(Source- http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ntpc-eesl-sign-pact-for-energy-efficient-lighting-solutions-116091900652_1.html, published on 19th September, 2016)

JSW Energy-Jaiprakash deal for 500-mw Bina plant gets CCI nod

The Competition Commission has approved Sajjan Jindal-promoted JSW Energy's purchase of the 500-mw Bina thermal power plant from Jaiprakash Power Ventures.

Under the deal, announced in July, JSW Energy will buy 100 per cent stake in the special purpose vehicle (SPV) -- Bina Power Supply Ltd (BPSL) -- to which 500 mw power plant is to be transferred.

The plant, which has two units of 250 mw generation capacity each, is located at Bina in Madhya Pradesh.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI), which keeps a tab on unfair business practices across sectors, has approved the proposed acquisition, as per latest information available on the regulator's website.

In July, JSW Energy informed BSE that it has agreed to acquire 500 mw (2X250 MW) thermal power plant located at Bina.

At that point, Jaiprakash Power Ventures had said its board has accepted the recommendations of the committee of directors as well as the audit committee to hive off and transfer of 500 mw Bina thermal power plant as a going concern basis to BPSL, subject to all requisite regulatory and other approvals.

The consideration to be received from JSW is linked to a base enterprise value as on September 1, 2015, of Rs 2,700 crore for sale of 100 per cent of BPSL, subject to mutually agreed adjustments, it had said.

JSW Energy is into power generation, trading and transmission, among others. Jaiprakash Power Ventures is part of the diversified Jaypee Group.

(Source- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/JSW-Energy-Jaiprakash-deal-for-500-mw-Bina-plant-gets-CCI-nod/articleshow/54408289.cms>, published on 19th September, 2016)

Rays Power Infra launches 100 MW solar project in Uttarakhand

Rays Power Infra, a solar energy company, will set up a 100 mw solar power plant in Uttarakhand. The Project's execution began in August, 2016, and is expected to be commissioned by February, 2017. It will be executed by Rays Power Infra on turnkey basis – from land acquisition to commissioning.

Pawan Sharma, director-projects, Rays Power Infra said, "After successfully commissioning a 55 MW Solar Power PV project in U.P., this 100 MW project in Uttarakhand will be our biggest project."

The 100 MW project is spread over a sprawling land area at Tehsil – Bhagwanpur in Roorkee District of Uttarakhand. It comes under Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency's (UREDA) competitive bidding for 2015-16.

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/09/rays-power-infra-launches-100-mw-solar-project-in-uttarakhand/>, published on 20th September, 2016)

India saved 55.7 million units of energy through UJALA

The ministry of power's initiative Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for all (UJALA), has already resulted in 55.7 million units of energy savings and has reduced carbon emissions over 45,000 tonnes.

UJALA has benefitted more than 5 crore citizens across 18 states and 4 union territories. This has been possible only through robust distribution and awareness mechanisms. The government has also ensured that awareness of its UJALA programme reaches every beneficiary, irrespective of their social and economic background.

Nevertheless, there are four states where the scheme has not taken off owing to necessary state government approvals. The government is engaging with the respective state governments and ensuring that the scheme is rolled out soon.

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/09/india-saved-55-7-million-units-of-energy-through-ujala/>, published on 20th September, 2016)

CleanMax Solar develops rooftop solar power plants in collaboration with SECI & MNRE

CleanMax Solar, India's largest rooftop solar developer with 28% market share, developed a rooftop solar plant for the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) in Belapur, in association with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The 88.2 kWp roof-top grid solar power plant was inaugurated by Mr. Kamal Preet Singh, Special Director General, CPWD, in the presence of Mr. Umakant Shende, Chief Operating Officer, CleanMax Solar. The rooftop solar plant, which has been integrated with

the conventional grid, is spread across 880 square metres and is estimated to generate 1.2 lakhs kWh annually.

Speaking about the recent government project, Umakant Shende, Chief Operating Officer, CleanMax Solar, stated, "CleanMax Solar firmly believes in the Government's National Solar mission to raise solar power generation capacity to 100GW by 2022. Supplementing this vision, CleanMax Solar has catered to a number of private and Government entities, where in we provide bespoke rooftop solar solutions."

He further added, "We recently commissioned the first ever solar plant project for a Central Excise building in the country which is based in Pune. While the plant in Pune has a capacity of 148 kWp and is expected to produce 2.2 lacs units annually, the plant in Belapur is estimated to abate 2750 tonnes of CO2 and save approximately 12240 trees, throughout the project life."

Mr. Kamal Preet Singh, Special Director General, CPWD, said, "We are pleased to have been associated with CleanMax Solar for the CPWD project. We strongly believe that renewable energy is the way to the future and installing rooftop solar panelling is our first step towards building a sustainable energy source."

He further added "We have been talks with CleanMax Solar for a while now and we're glad to see that the initiative has turned out to be a huge success."

In addition to Mr. Kamal Preet Singh and Mr. Umakant Shende, the inauguration ceremony also witnessed the presence of Dr. K M Soni, Chief Engineer, WZ-I and Mrs. Usha Batra, ADG, WR-I.

Stating his views in favour of renewable energy practices, Mr. Soni said, "Another plant of 50 kWp will be installed on Pratishtha Bhawan, CGO complex, MK Road soon. Also, a proposal of installing solar power plant has been submitted on rooftop of Aaykar Bhawan on MK Road."

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/09/cleanmax-solar-develops-rooftop-solar-power-plants-in-collaboration-with-seci-mnre/>, published on 20th September, 2016)

Quote of the day

'A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit.' - Arnold H. Glasow