

SUGAR

Cane growers seek immediate payment of arrears

Members of the Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam and other farmers associations staged a novel agitation in Perambalur on Thursday to press for their charter of demands including payment of arrears by the public sector Perambalur and Kurunkulam sugar factories.

The protestors staged the agitation blindfolded in a symbolic protest to highlight their demands. The farmers alleged that the Perambalur Sugar Factory at Eraiyur owed Rs.33 crore as arrears to cane growers who had supplied sugarcane to the factory during the 2015-16 crushing season. Similarly, the Arignar Anna Sugar Mills in Kurunkulam in Thanjavur district also owed huge sums as arrears to cane growers.

The State government, the farmers demanded, should intervene and ensure the payment of arrears to the cane growers. The agitators also demanded that all private sugar mills should be directed to pay arrears to the cane growers immediately.

The farmers also urged the State government to convene tripartite talks to discuss and fix the State Advised Price for sugarcane for the 2016-17 crushing season.

Alleging that machines at the Perambalur Sugar Factory were in poor condition, the farmers urged the government to take steps to execute the modernisation and cogeneration plant programme on a war footing.

The Centre should fix the price of agriculture produce as per the recommendations of M. S. Swaminathan Committee providing for 50 per cent profit over and above the cost of production, they urged.

N. P. Anbazhagan, president, Sugarcane Growers Association, presided over the agitation. R. Raja Chidambaram, state secretary, Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam, Swamimalai Vimalanathan, secretary, Thanjavur District Cauvery Farmers Protection Association, and members of various other cane growers associations participated.

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/cane-growers-seek-immediate-payment-of-arrears/>, published on 20th August, 2016)

Sugar mill 'pollutes' lone water source of village in Latur

Molasses from Rena sugar mill were unscrupulously discharged into the stream, which has left the water unfit for drinking and destroyed the aquatic life in the reservoir

Molasses released from a sugar mill has polluted a reservoir, the only source of water in Darji Borgaon village in Renapur tehsil of Latur district in Maharashtra, locals have alleged.

Rena Co-operative Sugar Mill, controlled by a local political leader, allegedly discharged tonnes of molasses in the reservoir earlier this month. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has

issued a notice to the mill, the district Collector said when contacted. "The villagers, along with the Art of Living organisation, built this cement nullah bund at a cost of Rs 6 lakh. It is the only source of drinking water for the village. After it was built last August, the water lasted us entire year," said advocate Jabbar Pathan, a resident.

"In the first week of this month, molasses from Rena sugar mill were unscrupulously discharged into the stream, which has left the water unfit for drinking and destroyed the aquatic life in the reservoir," he added. Bhagwat Mane, deputy sarpanch, claimed that the authorities were reluctant to take action against the mill. "We have no option but to depend on tankers for the drinking water now. In spite of writing a letter to the collector on August 8 and tehsildar on August 12, no action has been taken," Mane said.

Latur district collector Pandurang Pole said the MPCB had issued a notice to the mill. "It is true that Rena cooperative sugar mill has discharged molasses into the water which caused pollution. We have received complaints from villagers, but as the issue was not under my jurisdiction, we informed the MPCB which issued a notice to the mill," he said. "We have decided to provide the village with a special water supply scheme, and I will make sure that the mill bears the cost of it. Till then, we have arranged tankers," Pole said.

(Source- <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/sugar-mill-pollutes-lone-water-source-of-village-in-latur2989194/>, published on 21st August, 2016)

Co-gen/Power

Wind energy generation reaches record high

Wind power consumption in Tamil Nadu has reached a record high. Since May 15, when the wind power season started, the state has consumed 6,087 lakh million units, which is several times more than the wind power consumption in 2014 and 2015. On an average, about 22% of the power requirement in the state over the past three months has been met by wind energy.

Due to commissioning of transmission lines as part of the green corridor from Kayathar in Tuticorin district to Kancheepuram as well as another line in the western districts, the wind power evacuation has increased. On an average, nearly 4,000MW of wind power is being evacuated daily during the present wind season, especially during evening hours.

"Apart from the Kayathar line, we have also commissioned Coimbatore-Rasipalayam-Balavadi transmission line to evacuate wind power. To the extent possible, we have replaced thermal power with wind energy," said a senior Tangedco official.

Tangedco has also set up a Renewable Energy Management Centre (REMC) within its load dispatch centre. This helps the dispatch centre forecast wind power generation and regulate production at thermal plants. "The officials at the centre are positive about harnessing wind energy to the maximum, utilising scientific forecasting by the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) and data from the 117 pooling substations of the windmill farms," he said.

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/08/wind-energy-generation-reaches-record-high/>, August 21, 2016)

Untapped hydroelectricity capacity key to meet energy deficit: PwC

Rapid economic growth has led to a surge in energy demand leading to a grappling power deficit situation in the country and this can be met with the development of Hydro power in the northeast region which will be a key driver in improving India's energy situation. According to a CII-PwC report titled Round-the-Clock Power Supply: A Key Milestone for the Indian Power Sector, with only seven per cent of the tapped potential (installed capacity and project under construction), the northeast region provides enormous opportunities to the state governments and hydro developers to harness the potential. The report said development of the large hydro potential in the northeast region would contribute significantly in meeting the country's power needs in the future. The region would also benefit from the development of associated social benefits such as roads, schools and electricity supply to remote areas, which would further improve the quality of life. "India has witnessed transformational change in the energy sector over the past few years, through supportive policy interventions and sector reforms, making it the fourth largest producer of electricity in the world. However, rapid economic growth has led to a surge in energy demand leading to a grappling power deficit situation in the country.

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/08/untapped-hydroelectricity-capacity-key-to-meet-energy-deficit-pwc/>, published on 20th August, 2016)

Kudankulam Unit 2 capacity being increased for grid synchronisation

The power generation capacity of the second 1,000 MW unit at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) is being increased for its further synchronisation with India's national grid, a KNPP source said on Saturday.

"The second unit is currently at the power start-up stage. During this stage, the capacity of Unit 2 will be gradually increased for further synchronisation with the grid," the source told IANS over telephone.

"A unit is usually connected to the grid at 30 per cent capacity level and synchronisation proceeds on the subsequent attainment of 100 per cent capacity level," he said.

"The second unit might be synchronised with the national grid by August-end," the source added.

India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board this week gave clearance for increasing the power supply from the second unit at KNPP.

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/08/kudankulam-unit-2-capacity-being-increased-for-grid-synchronisation/>, published on 20th August, 2016)

IL&FS Engineering Services JV bags Rs 136.26 crore project

City-based infra player IL&FS Engineering and Construction Company Limited (IL&FS Engineering Services) and Unitech Power Transmission Limited JV on Saturday announced that they have bagged a Rs 136.26 crore project from the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) for turnkey works of 765 KV transmission line works for Bhuj-Banaskanta Transmission Line (Part-V) in Gujarat.

"IL&FS Engineering Services and Unitech Power Transmission Ltd JV have received a letter of award (LoA) from PGCIL for supply contract for tower package-TW05 for 765 KV D/C Bhuj-Banaskanta Transmission Line (Part-V) associated with Green Energy Corridors: Inter-State Transmission Scheme (ISTS) - Part C, along with contract for construction works of this line in Gujarat," the company said in a release.

The project completion period is 23 months from the date of issue of the LOA.

IL&FS Engineering Services is the lead partner for this contract and it is already executing a 765 KV line project under package TW02 of PGCIL in the same transmission line corridor.

IL&FS Engineering Services has executed transmission lines, sub stations and distribution works in states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, and Karnataka.

(Source-<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/ILFS-Engineering-Services-JV-bags-Rs-136-26-crore-project/articleshow/53789143.cms>, published on 20th August, 2016)

Germany's Senvion acquires wind turbine maker Kenersys India

Senvion, the German manufacturer of wind turbines, has acquired the wind turbine nacelle production facilities and infrastructure, complete product portfolio suite, wind turbine inventory and the service operations of KenersysIndia Private Limited, Baramati (Maharashtra). The move will help Senvion to penetrate the Indian wind energy sector, one of the fastest growing markets globally.

Kenersys' production facility of nearly 250 megawatts (MW) capacity has the potential to be expanded further. Senvion will be able to start its operations with the assets immediately after the closing of the transaction and obtaining the necessary approvals.

"There are two main advantages of this acquisition: Firstly, we shorten our time-to-market in India rapidly and, secondly, we can build on a strong base to further align the Kenersys products with our existing Indian R&D organisation and the well-known technical expertise from our Senvion tech centre in Germany. By adding 2-megawatt turbines with rotor diameters of 110 and 120 meters to our existing portfolio, we are able to offer our customers in India even more profitable and cost-efficient Senvion technology," stated Jurgen Geissinger, CEO of Senvion.

(Source- <http://indianpowersector.com/2016/08/germanys-senvion-acquires-wind-turbine-maker-kenersys-india/>, published on 19th August, 2016)

Coal India workers call for pan-India stir on September 2

Coal India BSE 0.07 % workers will go on a nation-wide strike on September 2 to mark their protest against further divestment and strategic sale in the sector.

"We have received a communication of notice... for strike on September 2. Efforts are being made for conciliation process," Coal India said in a regulatory filing today.

"In case they resort to strike, it will affect product and dispatch of coal."

In September last year, a majority of about 4 lakh coal workers across the country had gone on strike called by trade unions, which hit the production level in a big way.

The strike call was given by major trade unions like INTUC, AITUC and CITU to pitch for their demands that included opposition to any further stake sale in Coal India.

Nearly 5 lakh bank union workers and officers are set to join the strike called by trade unions on September 2 to protest against what they call "anti-people policies of the Modi government and labour reforms".

(Source- <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/coal-india-workers-call-for-pan-india-stir-on-september-2/articleshow/53785376.cms>, published on 20th August, 2016)

Quote of the day

'Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.' - Thomas A. Edison