

SUGAR

Telangana CM takes U-turn, says no takeover of Nizam's Sugar Factory

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Wednesday took a U-turn on the promised take-over of Nizam's Sugar Factory — that was privatised in 2000 by the then Telugu Desam government and closed last year citing losses.

Mr Rao had earlier promised government takeover of the factory, saying it was having a "historic significance" for TS. He had said that instead of its present status as a private partner in a joint venture, it should be made to run on its own for the benefit of sugarcane farmers.

But, the Chief Minister on Wednesday made it clear in the Assembly that the government would not take over the factory. "NSF is a closed chapter now. We will not take it over," he said.

Ready to pay to a JV, says KCR

"Farmers are not willing to run the factory by forming a cooperative society along the lines of the cooperative societies in Maharashtra. The government too cannot run the factory as it is not financially viable," Mr Rao said.

When Opposition leader K. Jana Reddy pointed out to the CM that some farmers were ready to run it, the CM said, "If that's true, I am ready to hand over the factory to them. I am ready to pay Rs 200 crore or whatever amount to a joint venture private partner to acquire their stakes. I am also ready to offer the chairman post of the cooperative society to you or your MLA T. Jeevan Reddy if you can run the factory. Run it, but it should not become a burden on the government. It should be run by farmers themselves. I shall also allot money for overhauling the factory machinery, so that it can begin operations immediately."

He stated that he had promised to take over the company in the hope that farmers would run it on their own. "I had sent 400 farmers to Maharashtra to examine how cooperative societies are running sugar factories there. After returning here, they told me that they cannot run the factory that way, and then I have decided to shelve the project," Mr Rao explained.

While admitting that he had promised to take over the factory during the Telangana statehood agitation and also after TRS came to power, he said, "The situation has changed during the last 15 years. Several sugarcane farmers have opted for other crops. There is not enough sugarcane production here. Otherwise we can make NSF financially viable even now."

Congress MLAs staged a walkout, protesting the failure of the government in implementing the crop loan waiver scheme completely even after crossing half its term in office.

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/telangana-cm-takes-u-turn-says-no-takeover-of-nizams-sugar-factory/>, published on 22nd December, 2016)

Sugar mills prices rise further on renewed buying support

Sugar mills prices improved further by Rs 10 per quintal at the wholesale market in the national capital today following renewed offtake by stockists and bulk consumers amid restricted arrivals from mills.

Market players attributed the rise in sweetener prices to fresh demand from stockists and bulk consumers amid reduced supplies from mills.

Sugar mill delivery M-30 and S-30 prices gained by Rs 5 to end at Rs 3,400-3,500 and Rs 3,390-3,490 per quintal, respectively.

In mill gate section, sugar Mawana, Dhanora and Dhampur rose by Rs 10 each to Rs 3,420, Rs 3,430 and Rs 3,420 per quintal.

Sugar Kinnoni, Dorala and Simbholi moved up by Rs 5 each to settle at Rs 3,500, Rs 3,420 and Rs 3,480 per quintal, respectively.

Following are today's quotations (in Rs per quintal)

Sugar retail markets – Rs 35.00-38.00 per kg.

Sugar ready: M-30 Rs 3,670-3,770, S-30 Rs 3,660-3,760.

Mill delivery: M-30 Rs 3,400-3,495, S-30 Rs 3,390-3,485.

Sugar millgate (including duty): Mawana Rs 3,420, Kinnoni Rs 3,500, Asmoli Rs 3,450, Dorala Rs 3,420, Budhana Rs 3,430, Thanabhavan Rs 3,420, Dhanora Rs 3,430, Simbholi Rs 3,480, Khatuli Rs 3,450, Dhampur Rs 3,420, Ramala Rs 3,410, Anupshaher Rs 3,410, Baghpat Rs 3,420, Morna Rs 3,420, Sakoti Rs 3,390, Chandpur Rs 3,400, Nazibabad Rs 3,400 and Modi nagar 3,380.

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/sugar-mills-prices-rise-further-on-renewed-buying-support-2/>, published on 21st December, 2016)

'Notebandi achha hai': In UP's sugarcane belt, demonetization is a sweet word

His white clothes soiled from the dust on the road outside the sugar mill, where he had been waiting for 12 hours, 65-year-old Bhagwan Singh's cup was brimming with woe. "We wait here for 24 hours without a place to sleep and then stand in queue at banks but we still don't get even Rs 2,000," said the sugarcane farmer.

Two other farmers — Devinder and Gajendra — who shared Singh's grievance about waiting at the mill to sell cane, however, refuted his criticism of demonetization and even drowned out his voice. "Hamare khoon choosne wale pakde jaenge. Notebandi achha hai (those who have sucked our blood will suffer. Demonetization is good)," Devinder said vociferously.

Speaking about demonetization, Gajendra said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done the right thing, but banks had failed him. "When the money from the rich comes, it will help us," he said.

Around 50 farmers joined the three. The argument on demonetization got heated, worrying security guards at the gates. The farmers moved away but the debate continued and tempers ran high.

Inside the sprawling Chadha Sugar mill, where around 150 cane-laden trucks make more than one trip a day, labourers were upset over not getting their wages.

Dayachand, who runs cranes in the mill, was worried that his workers have not been paid since November. Unlike farmers, whose money goes straight into their bank accounts, labourers at the factory are paid in cash.

However, this has not deterred Dayachand from supporting demonetization. "Modi has promised development and I would like to give him a chance."

With the PM's promise that the poor will get empowered etched on their minds, there are hopes and rising expectations among several of them that things will change. And, they are ready to wait. The narrative of the poor versus corrupt, which in their eyes has become synonymous with the rich, oppressed versus oppressor, and honest versus dishonest, has touched several chords among the people here, holding a sway over the demonetization debate.

Yet, as the 50-day timeline sought by Modi is nearing its end, signs of a simmering anger are now surfacing.

Surinder, who was taking cane to the mill, said the cash crunch has added to problems of farmers, who have yet to get last year's payment from mills. "It's wheat-sowing time but I don't have money to buy seeds. In my village, only 50 per cent wheat has been sowed and by this time it should be 70 per cent," he said.

A BJP supporter, he is now trying to make up his mind on whether to vote for BSP or SP for the upcoming state polls.

Mill authorities too admitted that demonetization had led to problems. "Employees have been taking leave to stand in queues. We are not able to get enough money out of banks to pay labourers," said Mohit Kumar, a superintendent in the cane department.

Cane farmers alleged there was "too much cane" at the factory and the crushing capacity of the mill had dropped. Om Vir, a farmer from Phatehpur Shitra village, said he was selling the sugarcane at Chapna mill, where he was getting Rs 310 per quintal in cash, and not at Chaddha Mill, where he was registered and would get Rs 315 per quintal.

"But, Modi will get support for demonetization," he said.

Around 70 km away, at Hapur's Simbhaoli Sugar Mill, where 50,000 sugarcane growers are registered, farmers were angry that the mill was buying cane from "outsiders" at a lower price. But this they said had nothing to do with notebandi.

At a queue at the mill, a farmer said demonetization will "at least hurt the rich who have been collecting wealth," while another said, "someone has acted against the corrupt... We are supporting Modi, not BJP."

A few disagreed, saying the problems were not showing any sign of ebbing. One quipped with a wry smile, "pradhan mantri ne kaha hai ki yeh saal accha hai," a reference to a line from

Mirza Ghalib's "ek Brahman ne kaha hai yeh saal achcha hai (a Brahmin has said this year will be good.)" He refused to say whether he was in favour or against.

Sociologist Dipankar Gupta said farmers have not felt the pinch as much as migrant labourers. "Demonetization is being seen as an attack (by the farmers) not just on the rich but the urban rich and this satisfies a very basic sentiment," he said.

Commenting on the conditions of farmers, he added: "I suspect before the next Rabi season things will stabilise. Sugarcane farmers depend on orders from mills. Unlike others it's not an emergency situation for them."

As the sugarcane-laden tractors, trucks and bullock carts lined the skyline against the orange hues of the setting sun, there seemed to be hope that next year would bring "ache din."

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/notebandi-achha-hai-in-ups-sugarcane-belt-demonetization-is-a-sweet-word/>, published on 22nd December, 2016)

ETHANOL

Biomass-to-ethanol plant to be set up in Panipat

To reduce pollution arising from burning of agricultural waste, a biomass-to-ethanol plant is being set up by the Indian Oil Corporation in Panipat to prepare ethanol from agricultural and other residues, a top government official said.

Expressing concern over the adverse impact of crop residue burning, Haryana Chief Secretary D S Dhesi urged scientists to develop affordable and easy-to-use technology for management of crop residue and other types of waste.

This project should also be profitable, he added. Dhesi was speaking at a workshop on Crop Residue Management, organised at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), here today.

He said that educating farmers about the impact of crop residue burning on the environment and soil fertility were the need of the hour, and that they should also be provided waste management facilities for effectively curbing the practice.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, Dr Abhilaksh Likhi said that wheat was sown in over 13 lakh hectares in the State, producing 60 lakh tonnes of crop residue. Therefore, the State government has decided to create awareness amongst the farmers to ensure effective management of this residue, he said.

The campaign would be first initiated in Karnal district, where farmers would be educated about crop waste management at village and block levels from next year onwards and the district would be made crop residue burning-free.

(Source-<http://sugarnews.in/biomass-to-ethanol-plant-to-be-set-up-in-panipat/>, published on 22nd December, 2016)

Quote of the day

Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence.
- Colin Powell