



VITAL INDUSTRY UPDATES - 11/09/2015

Soyameal exports decrease 72 pc

soyameal exports during August 2015 were just 769 tonnes as compared to 2,778 tonnes in August 2014, showing a decrease of 72.33 per cent.

On financial year basis, exports during April 2015 to August 2015 were 35,858 tonnes as compared to 96,201 tonnes in the same period of the previous year, showing a decrease of 62.73 per cent.

During the current oil year (October-September), total exports during October 2014 to August 2015 were 5,85,485 tonnes as against 20,60,782 tonnes last year, down 71.59 per cent.

Weekly coal stocks at ports fall 3.8 pc

Coal stocks at 16 ports showed a total of 12.6 million tonnes (mt) as of August 28 by sliding 3.8 per cent week-by-week, according to a leading shipbroker.

The stockpiles comprised 10.25 mt of thermal coal, down 4 per cent from 10.6 mt in the previous week, and 2.33 mt of coking coal, down 2.8 per cent over the same period from 2.4 mt, data showed.

Paradip Port on the east coast had the highest coal stocks as of August 28 at 2.89 mt, but was down 4.9 per cent compared to the previous week. It also had the highest coking coal stocks at 1.03 mt, lower by 9.5 per cent than the previous week's 1.14 mt.

Kandla Port on the west coast had the highest thermal coal stocks at 2.29 mt, down 2 per cent from 2.34 mt in the previous week, according to the shipbroker.



The 16 ports surveyed were New Mangalore, VOC Port, Kakinada, Paradip, Kandla, Gangavaram, Visakha-patnam, Krishnapatnam, Muldwarka, Bhavnagar, Pipavav, Mormugao, Haldia, Magdalla, Hazira and Dahej.

SME engineering exporters protest duty on steel imports

Government's proposal to impose 20 per cent safeguard duty on certain steel imports is a "death knell" for small and medium exporters, engineering exporters' body EEPC said today.

The Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) has cautioned the government about "these measures spelling a death knell for millions of SME exporters who will have to bear the high cost of basic raw material while the benefit of the same would be reaped by the big corporates".

The body in a statement said that cost of SME players will rise by at least 15 per cent and this would make their products uncompetitive globally.

The Directorate General (DG) of Safeguards has suggested a provisional 20 per cent safeguard duty for a period of 200 days on the common variety of hot rolled coil steel.

Recommendations of the DGS to impose safeguard duty should be rejected, it said, adding "or else, lakhs of jobs in the SMEs would be sacrificed for the sake of helping the large and powerful steel manufacturers".

Imports of flat-rolled products of iron and steel have fallen from \$ 1.8 billion in 2012-13 to \$ 1.4 billion in 2014-15, it added.



Coal India banks on 25 key projects to double production by 2020

Coal India's plan to double production to almost 1 billion tonnes by 2020 hinges precariously on the successful completion of 25 key projects that are meant to deliver half the targeted output.

For most of these projects, land is yet to be acquired, environmental approvals have to be obtained and transportation of coal by rail, known as evacuation, has to be arranged.

"While environment clearance for all of these projects may be a certainty — either on time or delayed — evacuation could be an issue at regions," a senior Coal India BSE 0.21 % official said on condition of anonymity. "The coal projects can be taken up provided the evacuation system is in place at these locations." To speed up the rail links, the government is forming special purpose vehicles in which Coal India is likely to hold the majority stake, followed by the Indian Railways and the respective state governments. The SPVs will set up three rail lines that will have the capacity to carry 300 million tonnes of coal from areas that are now logistically constrained. The estimated investment in these projects is about Rs 8,000 crore. A tripartite memorandum of understanding has been signed for the 93-km Tori-Shivpur-Kathautia railway line. Coal India will hold a 64 per cent in this venture, the Indian Railways 26 per cent and the Jharkhand government 10 per cent.

The second project is a 52-km Jharsuguda-Barpalli track in Odisha. The third project is a 450 km stretch in Mand-Raigarh coalfields in Chhattisgarh.

Coal India officials agreed there is a "concentration of risk" in the production



expansion plan, with some 463 million tonnes to come from 25 of the 152 projects to be developed by 2020.

The projects that have been planned are mostly opencast mines. Coal India is trying to reduce the risk by increasing production from underground mines, which currently contribute about 10 per cent of output, which was 494.24 million tonnes in 2014-15. However, underground mining is an issue because producing from deeper seams is costlier, the official said.

