



IISCO Sends First Consignment Granulated Slag to Bhutan

Close on heels of dispatching its first export consignment of steel to quake-hit Nepal on July 30, Steel Authority of India's newly expanded and modernised IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) at Burnpur, has sent its first export consignment of Granulated Slag to Bhutan. The consignment which consists of 4000 tonnes of slag produced from the new blast furnace "Kalyani" will be utilized in cement plants in the mountain kingdom.

There is a high demand for the Granulated Slag produced at Burnpur from domestic customers like ACC Ltd and Burnpur Cement as well as from neighbouring countries.

IISCO Steel Plant currently produces around 40,000 tonne of Granulated Slag per month and has export orders lined up from other neighboring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh. Preparation is on for exporting

consignment of two rakes of Granulated Slag to customers in Nepal. Incidentally, ISP's earlier export order comprising 5,500 tonnes of steel blooms will be used to roll out quake-resistant TMT bars and be utilized in re-building and re-construction work in Nepal. Both these exports are in alignment with the Prime Minister's pursuit to elevate bilateral relationship with neighbouring countries by ushering in massive infrastructure development all around.

Assam Bans 140 Car Models Over Safety Issue



It is reported that the Assam High Court has issued an interim order to ban the sales and registration of 140 car models that don't pass the international crash test. The ban affects majority of the budget cars including the top selling models like the Maruti Swift, Alto, Hyundai i10, Tata Nano and even the recently launched Honda Jazz.

Addressing a petition filed in the North Eastern state, the high court ordered a ban on all the vehicles weighing under 1,500kgs and also those that don't meet the crash test norms. The ban does not affect the bigger SUVs, as they supposedly have the capacity to absorb impact during a crash.

Further the court has also directed the centre to not permit auto manufacturers from selling small four-wheelers and quadracycles under 1,500kgs, without putting them through a crash test and emission test. The high court decision that came in favour of the petition wants the Global NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme) that is followed in the developed market to be followed in Assam, since higher safety standards are required in mountainous regions.

The North Eastern states account for close to 12 per cent of total car sales in India.

The ban will affect the car market, which is seeing a positive trend after a long while. The order has put majority of the carmakers in a quandary, and they are now trying to resolve the issue through SIAM.

While there is no denying that the Indian government has been lethargic in implementing measures regarding passenger safety, this ruling may not be a way out. Firstly, the ban does not take into consideration the fact that the cars meet all the requirements in India, which may not be a lot, but are in line with regulations set by the government. If any changes are required in the regulations, carmakers need time to implement the same.

Also, the assumption that cars weighing over 1,500kg are safer may prove to be roadblock. Vehicle safety is mainly a function of design and safety features in a particular model.

The safety standards in India are supposed to change starting October 1, 2017 with the implementation of Bharat New vehicle Safety Assessment Programme (BNVSAP). The new standards will require all the new car models to pass the crash test at the ARAI facility in Pune.

India to Auction 20 Major Mines to Revive Industry - Government Official

India will auction about 20 major iron ore mines this year in its first such sale ever, a top government official said; as



it looks to revive its corruption tainted mining industry. India's mining sector has been mired in controversy over illegal allocation of resources. Once the world's third-biggest iron ore exporter, the country now imports the steelmaking ingredient due to a court-led crackdown on illegal mining.

The government hopes auctions will help curb wrongdoing. While it is unlikely to lead to an immediate boost in iron ore output at a time when there is a global glut, mine sales will bring India closer to its target of tripling its steel capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2025 and relying less on ore imports.

"Most of the states are in the midst of carrying out their pre-auction activities and hopefully by the end of October and November onwards they will start auctions," Mines Secretary Balvinder Kumar said.

He expects about 80 mines to be auctioned in the first phase, including limestone, gold and about 20 iron ore mines. States are estimating reserves, Kumar added.

India produced 136 million tonnes of iron ore last fiscal year ended March 31. About 1.5 million tonnes of ore are needed to make 1 tonne of steel, implying India's ore output will have to be more than triple in 10 years if steel companies are to be self sufficient.