



## Tomar meets Dy PM, Poland to strengthen bilateral trade

Union Minister of Steel and Mines, Government of India, Narendra Singh Tomar, led a high-level delegation of Indian mining and steel representatives, in a meeting held with Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Poland, Mr. Janusz Piechociski, along with the visiting Polish delegation. The meeting was organised on the sidelines of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Ahmedabad recently. Leaders on both sides discussed areas of mutual collaboration, particularly in the mining sector, to further trade ties between the two countries.

Addressing the Polish delegation, Tomar emphasised the focus of Indian government in transforming India as a pulsating investment ground. He expressed openness to amend the governing policy framework in order to enable speedier decision making, and to foster ease of doing business in the subcontinent. Appreciating the expertise of Poland in underground mining and coal technologies, the Minister stated that Indian steel and mines PSUs like SAIL, NMDC, MECON and GSI would explore possibilities to forge partnership wherever feasible.

Polish Minister Mr. Janusz Piechociski hailed the historical alliance between India and Poland, and appreciated the role played by Indo-Poland Joint Business Council in promoting partnership between the two countries. Informing the Indian delegation about the Go India policy of Poland, Mr. Piechociski stated that



considering a growth of 16% in Indo-Polish trade over the last year, it could potentially grow from the current level of US\$ 2 billion to US\$ 5 to 10 billion in near future. He apprised the meeting of advancements made by Poland in the areas of coke making, mining, geology, health and safety, and invited Indian counterpart to explore collaboration in R&D, training, skill development, development of new mines etc. He further suggested that exploring synergies in nuclear energy and mining education. Besides, he propounded the idea of creating an Indo-Polish working group comprising CEOs of leading businesses on both sides.

Tomar was accompanied by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Sunil Barthwal, Chairman, Steel Authority of India Limited and International Coal Ventures Limited CS Verma, Chairman, NMDC N Kothari and other senior officers of PSUs and Ministries concerned.



## Coking coal imports down by 29.6% in Dec 2014

According to reports the imports of coking coal declined by 29.6 % to 2.71 million tonne in December 2014 as compared with 3.85 million tonne shipped in December 2013.

The imports also fell from 4.3 million tonne shipped in November. November shipments were higher as some deliveries ordered for the month of October were shifted to next month due to cyclone Hudhud.

Traders and experts said that the decline in shipments is a temporary phenomenon and does not mean the

imports will go down in future.

Mr. Rakesh Dubey of mjunction services said, "There was a temporary decline in the last part of 2014. It does not reflect the trend we have seen for the entire year."

In April-December period, the imports actually went up to 28.47 million tonne, up from 27.21 million tonne in the previous comparable period.

Mr. Ganesh Natrajan, chief executive officer of Ennore Coke, a coke manufacturing firm, said, "The prices of coking coal are trading around USD 125 per tonne at Indian ports. The rates remained the same throughout 2014 and are likely to remain around same level for at least next two quarter. Indian importers are comfortable at these rates."

Coking coal rates have slipped from USD 145 level since 2013 due to weak demand from China, Japan and South Korea, the major buyers, amid rising supplies from the North America and Australia.

## JSW Steel posts 6% growth in crude steel



JSW Steel announced that its crude steel output in the October-December quarter of 2014-15 marginally fell to 3.17 million tonnes as against 3.19 million tonnes in April-December 2013-14

Production of flat products declined marginally to 2.56 million tonnes from 2.57 million tonnes a year ago while the production of long products increased by 14% YoY to 0.50 million tonnes.

JSW has achieved cumulative crude steel production of 9.57 million tonnes in the first nine months of 2014-15 showing a YoY growth of 6%. Production of flat products and long products grew by 5% YoY and 17% YoY