



Karnataka sponge iron manufacturers seek special package



Karnataka Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association has urged Vinay Kulkarni, Minister of State for Mines and Geology, to announce a special package for the revival of sponge iron units in the State.

T Srinivas Rao, president of K-SIMA, who met Kulkarni during his visit to Ballari to submit a memorandum in this regard, explained the plight of the manufacturers of

sponge iron due to non-availability of iron ore, leading to a fall in production, and also mounting debts.

He said that the Government of Goa had gone to the rescue of the sponge iron industry there by announcing a special package. He told the Minister that of the 70 sponge iron units in the State, around 40 had been closed down while the remaining are struggling mainly due to non-availability of ore in the State.

He said for a want of raw material, production had come down and debts are mounting.

A couple of sponge iron units were sold as scrap while bankers are after recovery. Under these circumstances, the State government should come out with a special package by arranging for adequate availability of ore through the State-owned Mysore Minerals Limited and the National Mineral Development Corporation.

Tata steel selects Danieli for revamping of a recoiling line



Tata Steel founded India's first industrial city, now Jamshedpur, where it established India's first integrated steel plant in 1907.

The Jamshedpur Works currently comprise a 9.7-Mtpy crude steel production facility and a variety of finishing mills. Right now the Tata Steel Group is among the top ten global steel companies with an annual crude steel capacity of nearly 30 million tons.

After almost 15 years of operation, the existing recoiling line n°1 in Jamshedpur is no longer able to fully satisfy production requirements. After several rounds of detailed technical and commercial discussions and comparisons, Tata Steel has selected the revamping technology and equipment proposed by Danieli for this project. To renew the existing line Danieli will supply a new side trimmer

with the scrap baller, a horizontal and vertical inspection station, a hydraulic power unit, a new CPC and steering roll unit.

Danieli Automation will supply the electrical and automation systems for the new equipment and to upgrade the existing systems.

This project has led to a fruitful co-operation between two important players in the steel industry.

India's iron ore output to touch 199 MT by 2020 : BMI Research



India's iron ore production is expected to grow at 5 per cent annually during 2016-2020 and hit 198.8 million tonnes by 2020, BMI Research said.

Globally, the research firm said the iron ore market will stay in surplus over its forecast period to 2020. Expanding output in Brazil and Australia and lower steel demand in China will remain the drivers of global oversupply.

India's mining sector will experience solid growth, primarily boosted by the country's positive reforms and vast mineral reserves, BMI Research said in a statement.

Despite this, the sector will continue to face challenges due to the country's inadequate operating environment, mining royalties and low metals prices, which will prevent India from reaching its full growth potential, it added.

"We forecast India's iron ore output to grow from 159.9 MT in 2016 to 198.8 MT in 2020. This represents average annual growth of 5 per cent during 2016-2020," it said.

Global iron ore production will grow minimally from 3,036 MT in 2016 to 3,165 MT by 2020. This represents average annual growth of 0.3 per cent during 2016-2020.

On the one hand, supply growth will be primarily driven by Australia and Brazil due to expanding output by major miners such as Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, Vale and Fortescue Metals.

"On the other hand, miners in China, which operate at the higher end of the iron ore cost curve, will be forced to cut output due to continued iron ore price weakness," it said.