



India becomes world's second crude steel producer-Report



World Steel Association in its latest report said that India has jumped ahead of Japan to become world's second largest steel producing country in the world.

The report added that crude steel production of India in 2018 stood at 106.5 MT, an increase of 4.9 per cent from 101.5 MT in 2017. On the other hand, Japan produced 104.3 MT in 2018, down 0.3 per cent compared to 2017.

China is still on top with its crude steel production in 2018 reaching 928.3 MT, up by 6.6 per cent in 2017. According to the report, the crude steel output of China increased 6.6 per cent to 928.3 MT

in 2018 from 870.9 MT in 2017. The share of China in global crude steel production jumped from 50.3 per cent in 2017 to 51.3 per cent in 2018.

Global crude steel production in 2018 stood at 1,808.6 MT from 1,729.8 MT in 2017, a jump of 4.6 per cent, said the report.

The US was at the 4th position as it produced 86.7 MT of crude steel in 2018. The other nations in the top 10 are South Korea (72.5 MT), Russia (71.7 MT), Germany (42.4 MT), Turkey (37.3 MT), Brazil (34.7 MT) and Iran (25 MT).

The report showed that Italy produced 24.5 MT of crude steel in 2018, while France's output was 15.4 MT.

In 2018, annual crude steel production for South America was 44.3 Mt, which is 1.3 per cent more than 2017. Brazil produced 34.7 Mt in 2018, a jump of 1.1 per cent compared to 2017. ■

No classification for Steel Makers

In order to provide a level playing field to steel manufacturers, both SMEs and large players, with different capacities and following different routes of steel production, Ministry of Steel has stopped classifying steel producers as integrated steel producers, primary steel producers, and secondary steel producers.

Instead, once the steel product is certified by the Bureau of Indian Standard and meets the desired specifications, no distinction shall be made on account of the basic input material and the process followed. 53 quality control orders have been issued in this regard laying down the quality standards for several steel products. Government engineering departments especially in the CPWD, Military Engineering Service and NBCC have been asked to ensure adherence to the above clarification and avoid any restrictive practices in their tenders. ■

Indian steel scrap policy to be unveiled soon

Indian government will unveil the much-awaited steel scrap policy to make the sector cost-effective, boost domestic production and reduce dependence on imports. The Union Cabinet is scheduled to consider the steel scrap policy.

According to news report, the policy will outline norms for quality steel scrap, derived mostly from old vehicles that can be recycled to boost domestic steel output and reduce imports.

Union Steel Minister Chaudhary

Birender Singh said that that "As six million tonnes scrap is currently imported every year, our policy is ready for it. It's the policy decision of government for which we have sent our proposal to the Cabinet and waiting for the approval".

Singh added that "Next 25 days are very crucial time for the government. I think it (the policy) will come very soon."

The government will set up at least two plants that will recycle steel scrap to begin with. One scrap plant may be located either in

Haryana or Punjab in the northern region. The second plant could be located either in Gujarat or Maharashtra on the west coast.

Singh said that "Scrap-based steel plants are environment-friendly, energy-efficient and cost effective, adding that these plants would be on the lines of melt and manufacture steel technology used in the US."

He further commented that "Availability of scrap is the highest in north India that constitutes about 40 per cent of total scrap." ■