

Government unveils spectrum regulatory sandbox policy

JATIN GROVER New Delhi, March 11

IN A BID to enhance ease of doing business in the telecom sector, the department of telecommunications (DoT) on Monday announced a regulatory sandbox policy to give easy permission for spectrum needed in any kind of trials of equipments and research and development (R&D).



THROUGH THIS SPECTRUM REGULATORY SANDBOX, WE'LL GIVE VERY EASY PORTAL-BASED PERMISSIONS ASHWINI VAISHNAW, COMMUNICATIONS AND IT MINISTER

poses, including regulatory sandbox. A lot more reforms have been taken by the government in the Telecommunications Act, 2023. "Through this spectrum regulatory sandbox, we will give very easy portal-based permissions," communications and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at the curtain raiser event of World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA 2024).

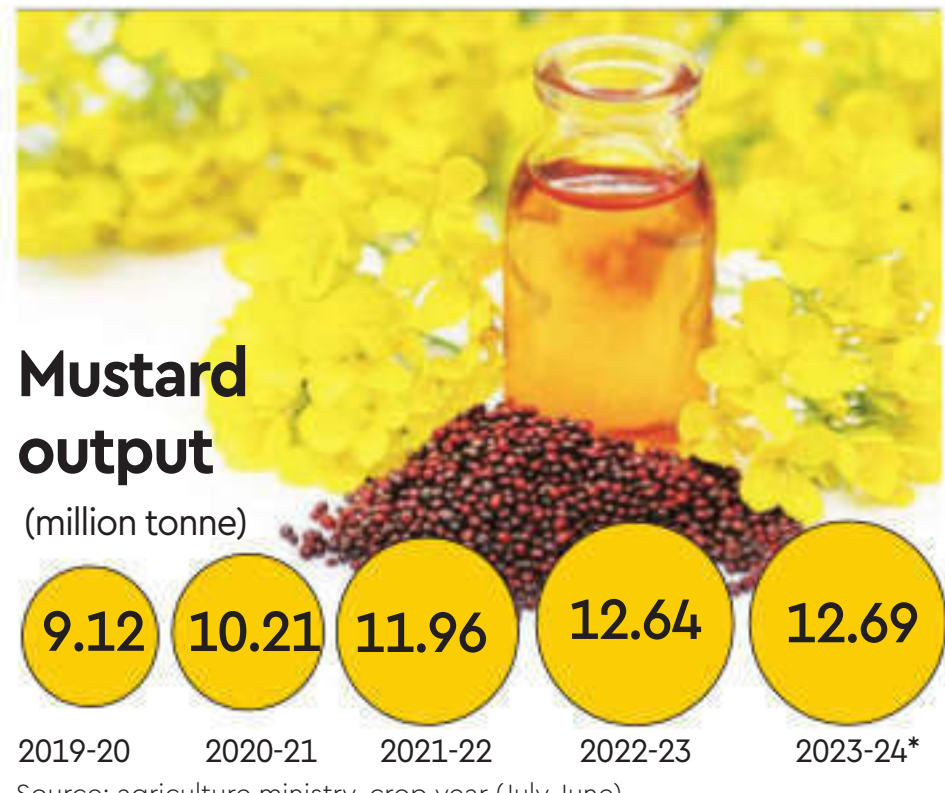
Bumper harvest, imports depress mustard prices

SANDIP DAS New Delhi, March 11

PROJECTION OF A bumper harvest and higher imports of edible oils has impacted domestic mandis prices of mustard, a key oil seed, which is currently ruling below the minimum support price (MSP), traders and farmers said.

While harvesting is currently in the full swing in key producing states, mandi prices of mustard seed, at Bharatpur (Rajasthan), the hub of the country's trades ruling around average price of ₹5100/quintal on Monday against a minimum support price of ₹5650/quintal for 2023-2024 season.

This is the second year in a row mustard prices are ruling below MSP because of surge in imports. Roop Singh, CEO, Uttan Mustard Producers Company, a FPO based in Bharatpur told FE that while in 2020 and 2021 the farmers have received remunerative prices which was reasonably above the MSP, prices have been ruling below MSP since last year as there has been increase in imports of edible oil as global prices have



Source: agriculture ministry, crop year (July-June), \*2nd advance estimate of foodgrains production

soften and the government has slashed import duties. "The government must intervene to provide MSP to farmers," Singh said. Sources said that MSP operations from oilseeds by the government agencies are likely to commence from April 1. India's import of edible oils - palm, soybean and sunflower - rose 17% on year to a record 16.47 million tonne (MT) in the 2022-23 oil year (November-October), helped by lower import tariffs of only 5.5% on crude oil imports. The government has extended the lower import duty structure for palm, soybean and sunflower oils till March 31, 2025. Due to large import of edible oil, the retail inflation in oil and fat category had been in the negative zone since February, 2023 as global prices softened. Inflation in cooking oil declined by 14.96% in January, 2024 on year.

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Adani Energy arm tops FY23 discom ranking

ADANI ELECTRICITY MUMBAI has topped the chart in the performance ranking of power distribution companies for 2022-23, a statement said on Monday. Torrent Power Surat and Torrent Power Ahmedabad were at second and third spots in the 12th edition of Integrated Rating of Discoms released by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy RK Singh.

As many as 14 out of 55 distribution companies received the highest A+ rating. Utilities of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh were in A+ / A category, a power ministry release stated. In all, out of the 55 utilities which have been rated, 14 have received a performance rating of A+, four have received A, seven got B.

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