



GAIL issues tender to buy & sell LNG for April-May

GAIL (INDIA) HAS issued a tender seeking to buy two liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes for delivery into India and offering two cargoes for loading from the United States, two industry sources said. It is seeking one cargo for delivery into Dabhol LNG terminal over April 13 to 15 and another for Hazira LNG terminal over May 1 to 2, the sources said. GAIL is also offering two cargoes for loading from Cove Point LNG over April 20 to 22 and May 10 to 12. The tender closes on March 2, the sources said.

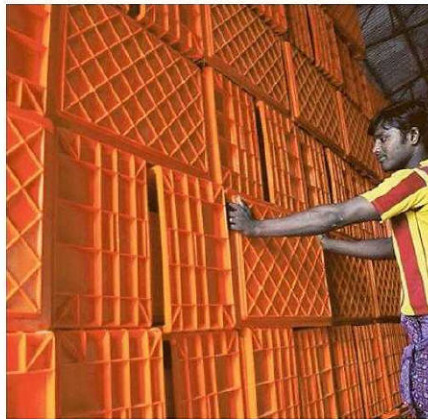
Rising polymer raw material prices hit MSME plastic units

Industry urges Centre to direct PSUs to streamline supply

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

About 50,000 units in the plastics processing sector are believed to be operating below 50% of their rated capacity due to a sharp rise in raw material prices, said heads of All India plastic industry associations. They added that if the crisis prolonged, about 20,000 MSME plastic units would be forced to close down.

Industry bodies said large petrochemical companies, including PSUs, had exponentially increased raw material prices by 40-155% in the last 8-10 months. The associations have urged the



Centre to direct Indian Oil, GAIL, OPAL, Haldia Petrochemicals and MRPL to streamline supply of raw materials at fair prices.

Several industry associations have urged the government to ban the export of the raw materials for one year and allow import of raw

materials not produced in the country.

“The industry is facing acute shortage of polymers, the main raw material for plastic goods production, which has varied applications,” said Chandrakant Turakhia, president of the All India Plastics Manufacturers Association.

“The increase in raw material costs and its acute shortage in market is leading to escalation in project costs and is adversely impacting the cost competitiveness of MSMEs,” said Arvind Mehta, chairman, governing council of The All India Plastics Manufacturers Association.