

Moody's Maintains Fiscal Deficit at 3.4% of GDP

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Moody's Investors Service reiterated its projection of a marginal slippage in India's fiscal deficit to 3.4% of GDP from the budgeted 3.3% this fiscal year, but cautioned that a farm package could lead to further deviation from the fiscal consolidation road map, which seeks to narrow the gap to 3% in 2020-21.

The international ratings firm said the recent policy announcement to support the income of small enterprises and a proposed move to support farmers facing stress could make it harder for the government to achieve its fiscal consolidation objectives.

"We currently expect the central government's fiscal deficit to reach 3.4% of GDP in the financial year ending March 2019, marginally higher than the budgeted target of 3.3% of GDP," Moody's said in a comment entitled 'Government of India: New policy measures, both announced and proposed, increase risks of fiscal slippage'. Moody's rates India Baa2 (Stable), a notch higher than other international ratings firms, after it raised the rating by one grade in November.

On Friday, Moody's cautioned that, if implemented, the proposed measures for farmers would cause further slippage from India's fiscal consolidation roadmap, which targets reducing the deficit to 3.1% and 3.0% of GDP in fiscal 2020 and 2021, respectively.

It said despite lower-than-planned expenditure, weakening revenue has resulted in the government already exceeding its full-year deficit target for fiscal 2018, reaching 114% of the budgeted amount from April to November 2018.

Moody's noted that the government was considering a number of measures to support farmers who were facing financial difficulties due to low crop prices. These include the introduction of a new direct income-support scheme, a revamped crop-insurance scheme and agriculture crop loans at zero interest rates. Without other expenditure rationalisation, higher subsidy spending on agriculture will increase future fiscal deficits, it said.

These measures are expected to be announced in the interim budget on February 1.

"Some of the measures under consideration, such as direct cash transfers to the agriculture sector, will reduce intermediaries and limit leakage in the system. However, the final design and implementation of the schemes will ultimately determine the size of any efficiency gains," it said.

Stick to Fiscal Road Map, EAC Tells Govt

ON THE AGENDA Panel discusses agri problems, investment trends & credit issues, among others

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Just a week before the interim budget, the Bibek Debroy-led Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister said the government should stick to its fiscal roadmap with continued emphasis on social sector interventions.

Government will present the interim budget on February 1.

Outlining the challenges for the government, the council said government should continue with its reform agenda including agriculture reforms, reforms in the financial sector, MSMEs, skill development, credit issues and digital payments to address some of the structural problems.

"The EAC-PM strongly feels that there should be no deviation from the fiscal consolidation target and but there must be continued emphasis on social sector interventions," the council said in a statement issued after its meeting on Friday.

There are indications that financial savings have started going up and there is a credit uptick through private banks to the services sector, it said. "The reforms in the financial sector should be strengthened further, building upon what the government is already doing," the council said.

Admitting that India is not insulated from global developments, the council has estimated the country's economic growth to be in the range of 7.7-7.5% in the next few years. "However, with reforms designed to address the structural problems growth rates can easily be enhanced by at least 1%," it said.

Eyeing a positive turn in exports, the council is of the view that government should reverse the insularity in external trade through supportive policy intervention because of positive turn in exports that are now visible.

Other issues discussed in the meeting included agricultural problems, investment trends, including investments by states consequent to 14th Finance Commission devolution, fiscal consolidation, interest rate management and credit and financial market issues.

"The challenges in the agriculture sector should be addressed by looking closely at credit flows and support to employment programmes like MNREGA," the council said.

It hailed the Reserve Bank of India's efforts for sound exchange rate management of the rupee despite the volatility in crude oil prices.

NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy is the chairman of the council and its members include Ratan Watal (member secretary), NITI Aayog's principal advisor and former finance secretary, economist Surjit Balla, Rathin Roy, director of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, and Professor Ashima Goyal of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research.

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)

3rd floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchary Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.

Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail jd-juidcolimited@gmail.com, pdt.juidco@gmail.com

NIT No: JUIDCO/PMAY/Vertical-III/2019/202 Date: 24.01.2019

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | (a) Name of the work | Construction (including structural design) of 1185 dwelling units in 5 number of G+8 blocks at Smart City, Ranchi & 477 dwelling units in 2 number of G+8 blocks at Pandra, Ranchi under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (Package D). |
| | (b) Scope of Work | Scope of work include Architectural Planning & Design, Engineering Procurement, preparation of detailed structural design & drawing, project execution & Construction, after obtaining approval from municipal bodies including water supply and sanitation, sewer network, electrification work, storm water drainage, rain water harvesting, landscaping, barbed wire fencing, street lighting, construction of internal roads and parking area of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana at Smart City, Ranchi & Pandra, Ranchi on EPC cum Turnkey basis. |
| 2. | Mode of Bid Submission | e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) |
| 3. | Estimated Cost (Rs.) | Rs 136.76 Crore |
| 4. | Tender Fee and Bid Security | Tender document fee: Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand) only Non-Refundable. Bid Security: Rs. 1,36,76,000/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Six Lakh Seventy Six Thousand) only. |
| 5. | Date / Time of Publication of Tender on Website | 24.01.2019 17:00 Hrs |
| 6. | Last date of submission of pre-bid queries | 30.01.2019 17:00 Hrs |
| 7. | Date of Pre-bid meeting | 31.01.2019 11:00 Hrs |
| 8. | Last Date / Time of Bid Submission | 16.02.2019 17:00 Hrs |
| 9. | Last Date / Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD | 16.02.2019 17:00 Hrs |
| 10. | Date of Bid Opening | 16.02.2019 17:30 Hrs |
| 11. | Bid Submission Address | Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, 3 rd Floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi - 834001 |
| 12. | Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell | +91 651 2225878 |

Note: Only e-Tenders shall be accepted.
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-Procurement website and can be seen on the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

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Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Limited, Ranchi

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Our Bureau

New Delhi: Finance minister Piyush Goyal said there shouldn't be any lapses in collecting tax arrears, but revenue officers must aspire to ensure that taxpayers looked upon them as a friend and not an adversary. Sometimes, in overenthusiasm to collect taxes, tax officers become overzealous which hurts honest taxpayers, he said.

The minister asked the revenue department to engage with stakeholders and crowd source ideas and feedback from people to improve its services.

The government has over the last few years taken many steps to create an atmosphere in which tax officers are welcomed rather than avoided, Goyal said. "In the last few years, there has been an honest attempt to change the culture, to make the administration very taxpayer friendly, to continuously bring down tax rates, (and) to make compliance easier and more technology driven," he said.

Addressing a function organised by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Goyal cautioned against overzealousness in tax collection. "Very often, in the overenthusiasm of the tax administration, we become overzealous also and that causes a lot of agony, particularly to the honest taxpayer who believes that I have done no wrong but why should I be in a general category and face the wrath of the tax administration," he said.

The minister said a customer-friendly approach could bring far greater results than any other method.

"I personally believe that the true test of our success will be the day when every customer with whom all of us are engaged looks upon us as a friend, not as an adversary ... We have

to trust the customers with a great degree of intelligence," he said, adding that his appeal to the business community would be that it was time to do business ethically and straight.

He said those days of high tax rates and high import duties which prompted people to evade taxes had gone. "... I myself come from the private sector and very often we would hear a friend say that if we are paying high taxes and it is not put to good use, why should we be paying such high taxes," he said.

It is always the actions of a few that cause agony to a much larger set of people, he said. "It's not that every businessman is cheating on taxes and it is not always that government or bureaucrats or people in power are all engaged in wrongdoing ... But, it is always the few black sheep, which causes the generalisation in the society or in the public mind that things are not going right," he said.

NCL
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Tender Notice

Open Tender is invited under e-procurement mode No.: NCL/SGR/MD/67/18-19/Open/218A1077/100 Dt.18.01.2019 for Supply of Truck Mounted Crane cum Manlifters. Estimated cost (Lakh): Rs.170.24 & Due date of opening on 20.02.2019.

Note: Above tender(s) has/have been uploaded on website <https://coalindiatenders.ncl.in> of Coal India Limited (CIL). All prospective bidders are advised to visit aforesaid website for participation against the above tender(s). Full details of above tender(s) are also available on websites "nclcl.in" or "eprocure.gov.in" or "tenders.gov.in".

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Sealed item rate composite tenders are invited from reputed Indian contractors / firms possessing necessary past experience for the work mentioned below at Cochin International Airport, Nedumbassery.

| Name of Work | Estimated Amount (Rs.) | EMD (Rs.) | Period of Completion |
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| Resurfacing of Runway, Taxiway and Link Lanes and upgradation of Airfield Ground Lighting facilities to CAT III. | 162 Crores | 1.62 Crores | 08 Months |

Interested agencies may submit their application to the Managing Director, Cochin International Airport Ltd., Kochi Airport (PO), 683 111 on or before 11/02/2019 for prequalification. For more details visit our website www.cial.aero.

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MANAGING DIRECTOR

KOLKATA METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Abridged e-Tender Notice : SE(EB)/T-07 of 2018-19

e-Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer (EB), W.S. Sector, KMDA, Unnayan Bhavan, 6th Floor, DJ-11, Block-A, Salt Lake, Sector-II, Kolkata - 700 091 from reliable, experienced and resourceful agencies for the work : Name of work : Laying of DI K 78 distribution pipe line of different diameter ranging from 100mm, 150mm and 200mm including supply of valve, specials and temporary road restoration upto WBM stage within Howrah Municipal Corporation area on Turnkey Basis. Estimated Amount : ₹ 10,32,68,283/- Earnest Money : ₹ 20,65,366/- Time of Completion : 6 (six) months. Last date of Bid submission online : 01.03.2019. For details please contact the above office or visit our both Websites.

KMDA/T-760/RA(04)/18-19

www.wbtenders.gov.in or www.kmdaonline.org

Govt to Issue Price, Demand Forecasts for 5 Crops Soon

Rituraj.Tiwari@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government will issue price and demand forecasts for onion, potato, mustard, wheat and chana to balance demand with supply and help distressed farmers get better prices with the help of market intelligence.

It hopes to end the practice of farmers sharply increasing planting of a particular crop after prices surge, which leads to a glut and losses in the following season.

The government plans to issue price and demand forecasts for commodities including price sensitive horticulture crops to enable farmers to understand market conditions, said Prasanta Kumar Swain, joint secretary (marketing).

"Farmers will have beforehand information on what to grow, what the demand in the market is and how market prices will behave. This will help them decide on the crop they want to grow. We are starting with five commodities and we will expand the scope in the coming seasons," said Swain.

The way India Meteorological Department (IMD) releases weather and rain forecast to help farmers plan their cultivation, Market Intelligence inputs will help prevent glut of crops curbing price crash and at the same time encourage tillers grow crops which are short in stock.

The agriculture ministry has engaged ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP) as knowledge partner and Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) as technical back stopper.

The decision to conduct the study is in line with the announcement made by the government in the budget for 2018-19 to create an institutional mechanism on market intelligence for farmers. The findings of the study will come in handy in the wake of the recently launched agriculture export policy aimed at doubling the farmers' income by 2022.

"The agriculture department will also provide inputs on international demand. So far, only traders have been benefited by research reports and findings. Now benefit will be directly handed over to farmers through this mechanism," said a commerce ministry official, who did not wish to be identified.

"The ministry has constituted an inter-ministerial technical advisory committee led by chairman National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to analyse and validate the price and demand forecast on the report prepared by ICAR," said Swain.

The forecasts are likely to be issued on a weekly or fortnightly basis to keep farmers abreast of markets movements and requirements of the country.

"It's a general tendency on the part of farmer to sow crops which had been more remunerative in the previous season. This leads to price crash and farmers are left in misery," a senior agriculture ministry official said.

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Tender Notification No. : MPMRCL/Bhopal and Indore Metro/2019/Package BI-01/01, Date: 25.01.2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

E-Tenders are invited from reputed and experienced contractors for "Detailed Geotechnical Investigation Study for the Underground Stations and Tunnels including Depots for Bhopal and Indore Metro Rail Project". Tenderers may download the tender documents from the official e-portal of Govt. of M.P. www.mptenders.gov.in from 25.01.2019 to 12.02.2019. Non-refundable cost of tender documents/tender fee is INR 25,000/- inclusive of GST (Indian Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) through Demand Draft or Banker Cheque. The details of Works are as under:

| S. No. | Name of Work | Approx. cost of work (In INR) | Completion Period |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | "Detailed Geotechnical Investigation Study for the Underground Stations and Tunnels including Depots for Bhopal and Indore Metro Rail Project" | 365 Lakhs (Excluding GST) | 16 weeks |

Any clarification/corrigendum/addendum to the tender documents will be uploaded on the official e-portal only, without any obligation of press notification.
For further details, please visit official e-portal of Govt. of M.P. or official website of MPMRCL-www.mpmetrorail.com

For any additional information & help for downloading & uploading, please contact e-tendering service desk at the following ID: support-eproc@nic.in or at Toll Free No.: (91)120-4200462, (91)120-4001002, (91)120-4001005, (91)120-6277787.

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NOTICE is hereby given that Ms Sarah Paine daughter of Mr Brian Paine (Late) is applying to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs for naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why naturalization should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the said Secretary.

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