PIONEER, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 5, Size:(8.60)cms X (17.25)cms.

500 'waste to wealth' plants to come up under GOBARdhan: FinMin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme will be established for promoting a circular economy.

These will include 200 compressed biogas (CBG) plants, including 75 plants in urban areas, and 300 community or cluster-based plants at a total investment of Rs 10,000 crore. Presenting the Union Budget for 2023-24, she also said the government will facilitate 1 crore farmers to adopt natural farming. The GOBARdhan scheme focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste on farms into compost, biogas, and bio-CNG. In addition to keeping the village clean, it provides additional income for farmers and cattle herders.

The GOBARdhan scheme also aims to make farmers more self-reliant in converting 'waste to energy.' For every district, the Government of India provides technical assistance as well as financial support of up to 50 lakhs to achieve the safe disposal of cattle and organic waste.

In the long run, the scheme aims to help villages safely manage their cattle waste, agricultural waste, and organic waste. Develop decentralized systems to turn cattle and organic waste into wealth for communities. The effective disposal of waste in rural areas is to reduce vector-borne diseases and promote environmental sanitation.

Besides, the government will take up mangrove plantation along the coastline under the new MISHTI scheme, she added. Sitharaman also said the government would promote conservation values through a scheme to encourage optimal use of wetlands.

Further, a green credit programme will be notified to incentivise environmentally sustainable and responsible actions by companies, she said.

Gaurav Kedia, Chairman, Indian Biogas Association said the Budget prioritizes the adoption of green fuel, energy, and building practices to reduce carbon intensity and create new green job opportunities.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 9, Size:(13.82)cms X (8.39)cms.

A strong foundation for Green India

ARUNABHA GHOSH
FOUNDER & CEO, CEEW

While Budget FY24 allocates significant amounts to green hydrogen and EV battery manufacturing, it could have have done more for directly channelling investment towards RE infrastructure

GREEN GROWTH CONTINUES to be a central pillar of India's overall development trajectory. The FY24 Budget speech outlined several new priorities, but paving a truly green economy path needs consistent effort.

The formalisation of the National Green Hydrogen Mission is the biggest single-sector push on the green growth agenda. The ₹19,744 crore allocated to green hydrogen can be used in part as viability gap funding (VGF) to create demand for green hydrogen via the SIGHT (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition) fund. To promote the manufacturing of electrolysers, allocations under the PLI scheme should focus on the indigenisation of higher-value components.

With the growing deployment of renewable energy, grid stability is important for energy system resilience, which is why the Budget has focused significantly on energy storage and grid infrastructure.

The ₹20,700 crore allocation to evacuate and integrate 13GW of renewables from Ladakh would spur investments in a region that has had high RE potential but historically low investment. Moreover, the Budget promises VGF for battery energy storage systems for 4,000 MWh. Detailed framework for pumped-hydro storage is awaited but signals clear attention to a dominant source of energy storage.

The Budget has promoted two areas worth noting. First, the circular economy, and second, sustainable agriculture, especially natural farming

A simultaneous fillip to mobile storage manufacturing and the transition to electric vehicles has been provided too. Exemption of customs duty for capital goods to produce lithium-ion batteries will reduce the final prices of batteries and make EVs more affordable. The encouragement for scrapping old government vehicles will create demand for EVs and encourage domestic manufacturing, if incentives are designed correctly. Given that the 50-year interest-free loan to states to be spent within 2023-24 can include scrapping old vehicles, this might be a good opportunity to get electric buses for public transport.

However, the Budget could have done more in directly channelling investment towards RE infrastructure. Eight years ago, the target for renewables was raised to 175 GW by 2022 and it is within the next eight that non-fossil electricity capacity must reach 500 GW. Institutional investors could have been nudged towards the sector by imposing RE investment obligations. The domestic bond market could have been deepened through a subsidised credit enhancement scheme. This would have limited fiscal implications but brought funds to clean energy infrastructure.

The Budget has promoted two more areas worth noting. First, promotion of a circular economy is now a budgetary priority—200 compressed biogas plants will be developed with ₹10,000 crore under the GOBARdhan scheme. The support for the collection and distribution of biomass would encourage a circular economy in the agricultural waste and transport sectors. More can be done to promote recycling plastics and for critical minerals.

The other push has been towards sustainable agriculture, particularly with the ambition to make 10 million farmers adopt natural farming and setting up 10,000 bio-resource centres to provide for regenerative agriculture. Additionally, the PM Pranam scheme could push agriculture towards alternative fertilisers and the more judicious use of chemical ones. While the budget promises to create a global hub for millets in India, more efforts are needed for value addition and increased consumer uptake of millet-based products globally.

The promises in the FY24 Budget will drive investments in new sectors. A truly green Budget, however, would outline how India's transformative targets for a green economy could be achieved timely and strategically.

DIVESTMENT DIARY

Asset sale target pegged at ₹51,000 cr for FY24

Current year projection slashed to ₹50,000 cr from ₹65,000 cr

SHRIMI CHOUDHARY
New Delhi, 1 February

The Centre aims to raise ₹51,000 crore through disinvestment of its stake in several state-run firms in financial year 2023-24 (FY24). This is 21 per cent lower than what it expected to earn in the current fiscal year.

The government has also slashed its projection for the current year to ₹50,000 crore from the earlier target of ₹65,000 crore.

The government has so far achieved just 48 per cent of the current year's disinvestment target, and it has just two months to raise the remaining ₹20,000 crore of the Revised Estimates (RE).

So far this fiscal year, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has raised ₹31,106 crore as disinvestment receipts and over ₹36,000 crore as dividend.

The Budget did not mention new asset sales for FY24 — indicating that the Centre's disinvestment target will depend on the completion of some big transactions, including the stake sale in IDBI Bank. Some other important transactions that have spilled over into next year include the disinvestment in Shipping Corporation of India, NMDC Steel, BEML, HLL Lifecare, Container Corporation of India, and Vizag Steel.

REVISING ASSET SALE TARGET

- FY24 (BE): ₹51,000 crore
- FY23 BE: ₹65,000 cr
- FY23 RE: ₹50,000 cr
- Disinvestment receipts so far: ₹31, 106 cr
- Govt to raise remaining ₹20,000 cr in two months
- Govt's priority continues to be speeding up ongoing big-ticket deals
- These include stake sale of IDBI Bank, Concor, Shipping Corporation, BEML, and NMDC Steel

Of the proceeds collected so far this year, a majority came from the initial public offering of LIC, through which the government raised ₹21,000 crore by divesting a 3.5 per cent stake.

Explaining the rationale behind a lower target, DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said at a post-Budget briefing that these deals were dependent on market conditions.

Besides, to facilitate certain strategic disinvestments, the Budget proposed allowing accumulated losses and unabsorbed depreciation allowance to be carried forward in the case of merger of one or more banking companies with any other banking institution or a company subsequent to a strategic disinvestment, if such amalgamation takes place within five years of strategic disinvestment. The government has budgeted for a 15.2 per cent increase in non-tax revenue at ₹3 trillion in FY24, after a 28.3 per cent decline in FY23 compared to the preceding year.

THE BUDGET DID NOT MENTION NEW ASSET SALES FOR FY24 — INDICATING THAT THE CENTRE'S DISINVESTMENT TARGET WILL DEPEND ON THE COMPLETION OF SOME BIG TRANSACTIONS

Higher collections under non-tax revenue are expected to be led by "other non-tax revenues", which are estimated to grow 22.3 per cent to ₹1.8 trillion. The main components of this are receipts from petroleum (₹24,185 crore) and telecom (₹89,469 crore) sectors, which are budgeted to grow 37.3 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively, in FY24.

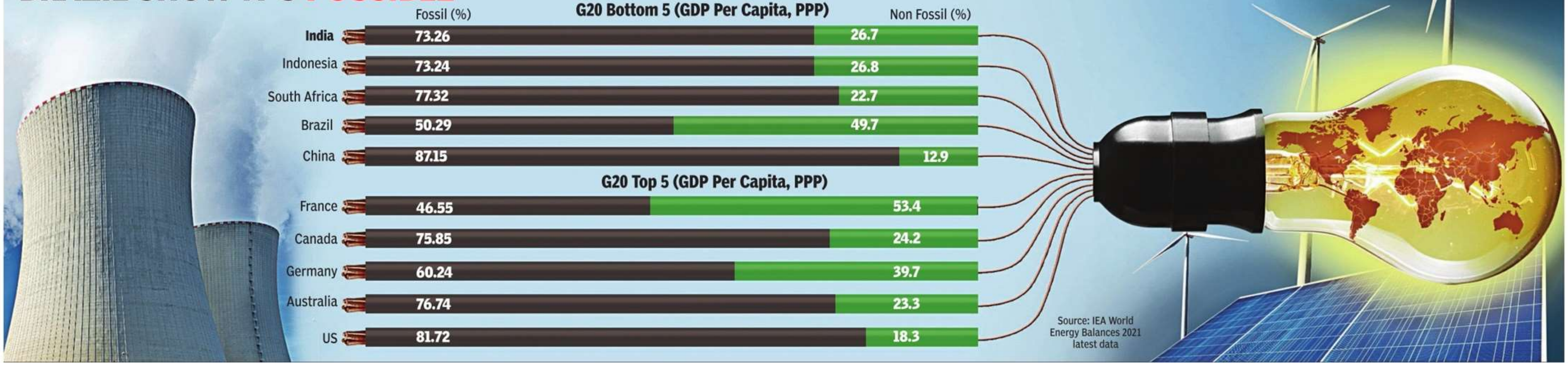
After a steep decline in dividends from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in FY23 at ₹40,953 crore, against a Budget Estimate of ₹73,948 crore, the government expects it to rise to ₹48,000 crore in FY24.

The Centre expects to exceed the dividends target from public sector enterprises in FY23 by ₹3,000 crore against a BE of ₹40,000 crore. For FY24, the Budget has estimated such dividends at the same level as the RE for FY23 at ₹43,000 crore.

TIMES OF INDIA, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(30.06)cms X (8.90)cms.

CAN INDIA WEAN ITSELF OFF FOSSIL FUELS? FRANCE, BRAZIL SHOW IT'S POSSIBLE

Only a quarter of India's energy needs are met from clean sources. This means it has some catching up to do to match the green energy trendsetters at the top and bottom of the per capita GDP ladder, in PPP terms, among the G20 countries. Brazil, among emerging economies, and France and Australia, among developed countries, are far ahead in the race to switch from fossil fuels to renewable sources. More than 40% of France's total energy production comes from nuclear power while biofuels and waste make up 34% of Brazil's energy mix.



FULL CHARGE AHEAD

ENERGY TRANSITION GETS FUND LEG-UP

SHREYA JAI & SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 1 February

Making green growth the key component of Amrit Kaal is the Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled central government's vision for the coming 25 years.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 announced a slew of policies for the green economy. In line with the country's Net Zero 2070 target and allied climate goals, the Union Budget gave a push to a green industrial and economic transition.

A record high budgetary grant went to energy transition, which would be a key driver in reducing carbon emission and leap towards green fuels and green energy sources.

"This Budget provides ₹35,000 crore for priority capital investments towards energy transition and net-zero objectives, and energy security by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG)," said Sitharaman in her Budget speech.

The Centre has entrusted the oil ministry, which naturally has the highest fossil-fuel footprint, to steer the energy transition of the country.

According to the expenditure budget of MoPNG, ₹30,000 crore has been allocated to oil-marketing companies (OMCs) and the balance for strategic oil reserves. It is expected the capital outlay to the OMCs would be focused on new-age fuels — green hydrogen, ethanol, and other biofuels.

The OMCs are currently in the process of drafting a comprehensive plan on ramping up green hydrogen production. Under the newly announced ₹19,000-crore Green Hydrogen Mission, mandatorily procuring green hydrogen has been stipulated for various sectors, including refineries.

The OMCs have also begun to produce ethanol from bio residue and agri waste. The plan is in sync with the Centre's long-term target of higher levels of ethanol blending with petroleum. E20, or petroleum blended with 20 per cent ethanol, will be retailed from April 1.

Battery-energy storage systems up to 4,000 megawatt-hour capacity and pumped storage projects will be supported with viability gap funding for furthering investors' interest.

Central support with ₹8,300 crore was announced for the ₹20,700-crore interstate transmission system, being built for evacuation and grid integration of 13 gigawatt of renewable energy from Ladakh.

TAKING CHARGE

₹35,000 crore Priority capital investment towards energy transition, net-zero objectives, and energy security by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

4,000 MWH Capacity of battery energy storage systems supported with viability gap funding

₹8,300 cr Support for setting up interstate transmission system for evacuation and grid integration of 13 gigawatt of renewable energy from Ladakh

21 times Mention of word 'green' in FM Nirmala Sitharaman's speech — the most ever. The word appeared barely 8 times in the previous four Budgets

₹19K-cr projects get grants under Sovereign Green Fund

SHREYA JAI
New Delhi, 1 February

Solar, wind, green irrigation pumps, and even Metro rail projects worth ₹19,858 crore will be beneficiaries of India's maiden sovereign green fund. The fund is expected to be built on the proceeds of India's maiden sovereign green bonds (SGBs), announced in the previous Budget.

SGBs were the 'green highlight' of the last Budget. To tap into investor interest in the growing green energy space, the finance minister last year announced the first-ever issuance of SGBs mobilising resources for green infrastructure.

A year later, the Reserve Bank of India issued an auction of two green bonds with tenures of five and 10 years, worth ₹4,000 crore apiece. The proceeds from the issuance were expected to be deployed in public sector projects to help the carbon intensity of the economy, said the Budget speech last year. Another tranche of a similar amount is expected to be launched this month.

The Centre is looking to raise ₹16,000 crore this fiscal year via green bonds. The Budget, however, has not offered any clarity, with the bond issuance as the only contributor for the green fund or Centre may seek more sources.

The Ministry of Railways has received the highest disbursement under the green fund, totalling ₹12,479 crore for two crucial Metro train projects in Kolkata. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy received ₹5,214 crore for grid-connected solar and wind power projects.

It has also been granted ₹1,996 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) scheme. The Green India Mission of the environment ministry received ₹169 crore.

GREEN PUSH

Total: 19,858

Ministry/**Project**/Amount (₹ crore)

- New & Renewable Energy/**Grid-connected solar power** 4,000
- New & Renewable Energy/**Grid-connected wind power** 1,214
- New & Renewable Energy/**KUSUM**/ 1,996
- Environment, Forest and Climate Change/**Green India Mission**/ 169
- Railways 1 **Energy efficient locos and 2 Metro rail projects** 12,479

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 9, Size:(21.51)cms X (19.22)cms.

Fuel subsidies are back: Oil cos to get ₹30,000 cr to hold prices

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has allocated the money under the head 'capital support to oil marketing companies'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Union Budget for 2023-24 will dole out Rs 30,000 crore to state-owned fuel retailers to make up for the massive losses they ran because of holding petrol and diesel prices despite rise in cost in a bid to help the government contain inflation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has allocated the money under the head "capital support to oil marketing companies". It offered no explanation why the blue chip, cash rich oil PSUs should need capital support.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) haven't changed petrol and diesel prices since April 6, 2022, despite input crude oil prices rising from \$102.97 per barrel that month to \$116.01 per barrel in June and falling to \$80.92 per barrel this month.

Holding prices when input cost was higher than retail selling prices led to the three firms posting net earnings loss. They posted a combined net loss of Rs 21,201.18 crore during April-September despite accounting for Rs 22,000 crore announced but not paid LPG subsidy for past two years.

Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum haven't changed petrol and diesel prices since April 6, 2022, despite input crude oil prices rising from \$102.97 per barrel that month to \$116.01 per barrel in June and falling to \$80.92 per barrel this month

That freeze had led to record high losses of Rs 17.4 per litre on petrol and Rs 27.7 a litre diesel for the week ended June 24, 2022. However subsequent softening led to losses on petrol being eliminated and diesel coming down to Rs 10-11 a litre. Retail rates havent been changed when oil prices well to help the oil companies recoup the massive Rs 50,000 crore under-recovery they ran for holding prices.

Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President & Group Head - Corporate Ratings, ICRA Limited, said the budgetary allocation towards capital support to oil marketing companies (OMCs) is Rs 30,000 crore as against the industry's ask of Rs 50,000 crore to compensate for losses incurred on the sale of auto fuels and LPG.

"The Government of India in October 2022, approved a one-time grant of Rs 22,000 crore to PSU OMCs for losses incurred on the sale of LPG which only partially compensates for the losses incurred," he said.

International oil prices have been turbulent in the last couple of years. It dipped into the negative zone at the start of the pandemic in 2020 and swung wildly in 2022 — climbing to a 14-year high of nearly \$140 per barrel in March 2022 after Russia invaded Ukraine, before sliding on weaker demand from top importer China and worries of an economic contraction.

But for a nation that is 85 per cent dependent on imports, the spike meant adding to already firming inflation and derailing the economic recovery from the pandemic.

So, the three fuel retailers, who control roughly 90 per cent of the market, froze petrol and diesel prices for the longest duration in at least two decades. They stopped daily price revision in early November 2021 when rates across the country hit an all-time high, prompting the government to roll back a part of the excise duty hike it had effected during the pandemic to take advantage of low oil prices.

The freeze continued into 2022 but the war-led spike in international oil prices prompted a Rs 10 a litre hike in petrol and diesel prices from mid-March before another round of excise duty cut rolled back all of the Rs 13 a litre and Rs 16 per litre increase in taxes on petrol and diesel affected during the pandemic.

That followed the current price freeze that began on April 6 and still continues.

Majumdar said the budgetary allocation for DBT on LPG (domestic) sales is low at Rs 180 crore in ICRA's opinion, which would be a risk for public sector OMCs in case international crude oil or LPG prices rise.

The allocation to Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves (ISPRL) is Rs 5,000 crore for the build-up of crude oil reserves. The increase in basic customs duty on Naphtha would be beneficial for the refiners as it would increase their sales realisations on domestic sales, he added.

TRACK TRANSFORMATION

Full circle: Focus on circular economy

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, 1 February

At a time when climate change is coursing through the economy with deleterious consequences, the Union Budget 2023-24 has put the spotlight on sustainable development and a circular economy.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) got no substantial increase in its budgetary grant, even as India aims for lofty goals in climate action.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while citing India's climate commitment LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), said: "India is moving forward firmly for the '*panchamrit*' and net-zero carbon emission by 2070 to usher in green industrial and economic transition. This Budget builds on our focus on green growth."

For achieving the goal of a circular economy, the minister announced a new scheme called GOBARdhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore. This will entail setting up 500 'waste-to-wealth' plants, including 200 compressed biogas (CBG) plants and 300 community or cluster-based plants.

The minister said there would soon be a mandate of 5 per cent CBG for all organisations marketing natural and biogas.

For building on India's success in afforestation, the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) will be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands.

In the Budget there was an increased focus for promoting conservation values through a scheme to encourage the optimal use of wetlands.

"The government will promote (its) unique conservation values through Amrit Dharohar, a scheme that will be implemented over the next three years," the minister said.

The government also aims to promote coastal shipping as the energy-efficient and lower cost mode of transport, both for passengers and freight, through PPP mode and with viability gap funding.

On the other hand, the budgetary allocation to MoEFCC increased barely 1.6 per cent over the previous Budget. Also the allocation to the flagship National Mission for Green India was reduced by 40 per cent.

In order to increase forest cover and to protect existing forest land, the ministry has two plan schemes -- Green India Mission— National Afforestation Programme (GIM-NAP), and Forest Fire Prevention Management. The funds for GIM-NAP will now be met from the sovereign green fund.

RUB OF THE GREEN

Allocation to National Mission for Green India reduced to ₹220 crore, from ₹361 crore in last year's Budget

Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan): ₹10,000-crore outlay
- 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants will be made
- Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)
- Funds from MGNREGS, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority Fund and other sources

Amrit Dharohar
- Optimal use of wetlands, biodiversity enhancement over next three years

Ramsar Sites
- Current: 75
- Before 2014: 24

Coastal shipping
- To be promoted as energy efficient and low-cost
- Deployed through public-private partnership mode with viability gap funding

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 9, Size:(12.99)cms X (11.06)cms.

Govt lowers disinvestment target to ₹50,000 crore for FY2022-23

NEW DELHI: The government has scaled down the disinvestment target for the current fiscal to Rs 50,000 crore, from Rs 65,000 crore budgeted last year, a Finance Ministry official said on Wednesday.

For the next fiscal 2023-24, the Budget has pegged disinvestment revenue at Rs 51,000 crore.

Further, about Rs 10,000 crore is expected to come from monetisation of government assets in the current year and well as in the next fiscal.

The proceeds from disinvestment form part of the miscellaneous receipts in the Capital Receipts Budget.

As per the 2023-24 Budget document, the revised estimate for miscellaneous capital

For the next fiscal 2023-24, the Budget has pegged disinvestment revenue at Rs 51,000 crore

receipts for the current fiscal has been pegged at Rs 60,000 crore, lower than the Rs 65,000 crore projected in the Budget estimates for 2022-23.

This Rs 60,000 crore includes Rs 50,000 crore from disinvestment proceeds and Rs 10,000 crore on account of asset monetisation, the official said.

For the next fiscal beginning April 1, the miscellaneous capital receipts have been pegged at Rs 61,000 crore, including Rs 51,000 crore from disinvestment.

As per the DIPAM website, the government has so far mopped up over Rs 31,100 crore by way of minority stake sale in CPSEs, as against the full-year Budget target of Rs 65,000 crore.

For the next fiscal, companies like Shipping Corporation of India, NMDC Steel Ltd, BEML, HLL Lifecare, Container Corporation of India and Vizag Steel, besides IDBI Bank, are in the government's list for privatisation.

This fiscal (2022-23) is the fourth year in a row that the government has missed the budgeted disinvestment target. PTI

MINT, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 26, Size:(30.36)cms X (11.23)cms.

Govt takes 'pragmatic' view on disinvestment targets

The govt has shelved disinvestment of BPCL, which was expected to bring in ₹50k-60k crore

Gulveen Aulakh
gulveen.aulakh@livemint.com

The government has set a lower disinvestment target for FY24 at ₹51,000 crore as compared with the previous financial year, while also lowering the revised estimates from FY23 to ₹50,000 crore from the earlier target of ₹65,000 crore, according to the budget documents issued on Wednesday.

"Disinvestment is based on market conditions and other factors, therefore a practical and prudent target has been kept," Tuhin Kanta Pandey, secretary, department of investment and public asset management (DIPAM) said during the finance minister's press conference on Wednesday, after the union budget presentation.

He had told *Mint* in a recent interview that disinvestment should be looked at from the point of view of reforms and employment creation instead of only capital generation.

"It should be looked at from the point of view of reforms. If you have to keep your fiscal deficit in control and still be able to put capex and social sector expenditure, you've got to be raising money apart from revenue. So, non-tax revenue is important, and then disinvestment is miscellaneous capital receipts. But generating resources is a small part of the story; it's how productivity enhancement takes place in the economy," he said last month.

Mint reported on 10 November that the government plans to go for a realistic disinvestment target in FY24, lower than FY23, since it had missed targets set for prior financial years.

The most recent was the ₹1.75 trillion target for FY22 which was revised downwards to ₹78,000 crore in the revised estimates in the union budget last year.

The actual proceeds for FY22 were a dismal ₹13,627 crore, primarily owing to the disruptions caused by covid-19 pandemic.

According to details from the department of investment and public asset management, the government had collected ₹31,106 crore as of 1 February, the majority of which had come from the public listing of Life Insurance Corporation of India which sold 3.5% stake for ₹20,516 crore.

The government has achieved 48% of its disinvestment target of ₹65,000 crore of FY23 as of 18 January, the economic survey tabled in Parliament on Tuesday showed.

The government has outlined plans to sell its shares in IDBI Bank, Shipping Corporation of India, BEML and Container Corporation of India through strategic sales where it will also transfer management control, among a slew of other stake sales. The government aims to invite financial bids for the stake sale in IDBI Bank, which will spill over to FY24 even as it proceeds with the disinvestment following the demerger of non-core assets of Shipping Corp. and BEML.

In addition, the government will seek expressions of interest for Concor following engagements with investors in recent road shows. But this, too, may take a more concrete shape only in FY24.

Disinvestments through strategic sales of HLL Lifecare Ltd and Projects and Development India Ltd are in advanced stages, and the proceeds may come in this fiscal year itself. However, the overall proceeds are unlikely to meet the target set for FY23.

The government has shelved the strategic disinvestment of Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd, which was expected to bring in ₹50,000-60,000 crore. The disinvestment of Central Electronics Ltd has also been scrapped, *Mint* reported earlier.

The disinvestment of Pawan Hans is also hanging fire following litigation against the winning bidder.

According to the budget documents, capital receipts from monetization and other transactions outside of disinvestment have been pegged at ₹10,000 crore for FY24 and the revised target for FY23 has been increased to ₹10,000 crore as well, compared to actual proceeds of ₹1,011 crore in FY22.

The government has outlined plans to sell its shares in IDBI Bank, Shipping Corporation of India, BEML and Container Corporation of India through strategic sales where it will also transfer management control. MINT

LOWERING EXPECTATIONS

GOVT has achieved 48% of its disinvestment target of ₹65,000 crore in FY23 as of 18 Jan

PLANS are to go for a realistic target in FY24, lower than FY23, following missed targets

THE govt seeks to sell its shares in IDBI Bank, SCI, BEML and Container Corporation of India

DISINVESTMENT of Pawan Hans is also hanging fire after litigation against winning bidder

INDIAN EXPRESS, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 11, Size:(14.42)cms X (9.17)cms.

Nothing for poor, farmers

Budget dashes hopes of relief from price rise, unemployment

BHUPESH BAGHEL

BEING THE last full budget of the current BJP led-government, people had high expectations but Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman dashed all such hopes. The Union Budget 2023-24 turned out to be nothing but a bag of deceptions. It is a ruthless budget, with no announcements or benefits for the youth, farmers, labourers, women, Scheduled Tribes and the poor.

The budget fails to address measures to check inflation and generate employment — these were the need of the hour. It has been prepared keeping an eye on the Lok Sabha elections in 2024. The finance minister's claim of understanding the pressure on the middle class turned out to be a political gimmick, as no immediate and concrete measures were announced to provide relief from the rise in prices.

The common citizen, who is reeling under price rise, was hopeful that the government would put forth some measures to help them keep more money in their hands by reducing GST on essential items and providing some necessary sops. But the real problem remained untouched. The government just played around with big figures and tried to appease people with attractive names for schemes. The budget lacked focus on issues like the impact of the global slowdown on economic growth and attaining improved health and educational outcomes.

Even the government's much-applauded move of changing the tax slabs and increasing the income tax rebate to Rs 7 lakh in the new tax regime is a blow for the salaried class as there is no provision of exemption under 80 C in it. It only discourages the savings required for the social security of an individual in the long run. The decision will dent the insurance sector as well, affecting the jobs of insurance agents. The highest tax slab has been reduced, giving direct benefits to a few top political influencers.

The budget does not address the rapidly rising unemployment rate. The allocation for MGNREGA, a key factor in stimulating the economy of the state as well as the country, has come down by 33 per cent, proving that the budget is anti-poor.

The central government paid no heed to the states' concerns and demands. Chhattisgarh's demand for the release of GST compensation, central excise dues and the transfer of coal royalties fell on deaf ears. The coal royalty rate was also not increased this year. It was last increased in 2014. No new trains, as demanded, were given to Ambikapur, Jagdalpur and Surguja.

The government had promised to double the income of farmers by 2022, housing was to be available to every poor person, and the unemployed were to get 60 lakh jobs. The finance minister should tell us how many of the promises made by the government in the last budget were fulfilled.

Agriculture contributes 14-15 per cent of the GDP but there was not a word in the budget on the government's intention to legalise minimum support price (MSP) or on providing guaranteed income to farmers.

The Centre has now launched the Gobardhan scheme to make use of cow dung. This step is a mere emulation of the Chhattisgarh model. Chhattisgarh has been successfully implementing the Godhan Nyay Yojana for the last two years through its gothans and purchasing cow dung at Rs 2 per kg. The implementation of the Godhan Ny Yojana in a phased manner has created s tainable growth in the rural econom Chhattisgarh. Farmers are preparing ver compost, their dependence on chemical tilisers has reduced and the income of wor associated with this scheme has increase

The problem of stray animals caus huge damage to crops was also not tal about in the budget.

The budget has nothing concrete ab alternative energy, despite the skyrock ing prices of CNG, petrol and diesel. It m tions that the focus is on biogas and gr growth in 2023-24, but Chhattisgarh been continuously seeking permission ethanol production from paddy, whic still pending.

This year has been declared as International Year of Millets, but MSF millets was not talked about in the bud In Chhattisgarh, on the other hand, we h declared the support price for 52 crops

The writer is Chief Minister of Chhattisg

OIL & GAS

DURING FY2023 THE OMCs incurred huge losses on the sale of auto fuels and LPG owing to elevated crude oil prices. While the GoI in October 2022, approved a one-time grant of ₹22,000 crore to PSU OMCs for losses incurred on sale of LPG, the same only partially compensates for the losses incurred. The budgetary allocation towards capital support to OMCs is ₹30,000 crore as against ₹50,000 crore. The budgetary allocation for DBT on LPG sales is low at ₹180 crore and would be a risk for PSU OMCs in case global crude oil prices rise. Moreover, the National Green Hydrogen mission envisages shift in usage to green hydrogen from natural gas by refineries and city gas distribution firms which will reduce the dependence on the latter over a longer term.

Impact: **Negative**

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

CLOSE : 2,338.05

-15.85	% CHG: -0.67	
EPS (₹)	P/E	Div yield
89.73	29.35	0.30
RM Cost/ Sales*	Revenue growth*	PAT growth*
54.27	43.17	19.85

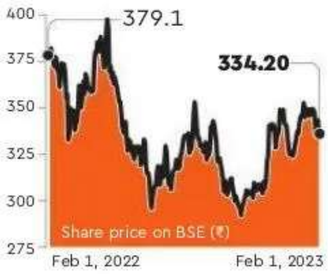
*For H1 FY22 (in %)

BPCL

CLOSE : 334.20

-9.05	% CHG: (-2.64	
EPS (₹)	P/E	Div yield
54.86	6.55	4.45
RM Cost/ Sales*	Revenue growth*	PAT growth*
46.17	39.20	NA

*For H1 FY22 (in %)

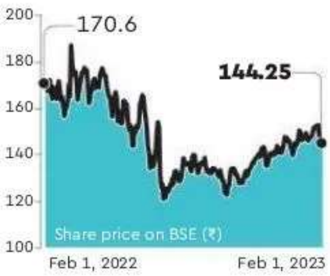


ONGC

CLOSE : 144.25

-0.50	% CHG: -0.35	
EPS (₹)	P/E	Div yield
36.19	4.53	6.41
RM Cost/ Sales*	Revenue growth*	PAT growth*
28.41	52.74	-39.32

*For H1 FY22 (in %)



PROPOSALS

- Allocation of ₹30,000 crore towards capital support to oil marketing companies (OMCs).
- Allocation of ₹180 crore towards Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on LPG (domestic) sales
- Allocation to Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) of ₹5,000 crore.
- Increase in basic customs duty on Naphtha to 2.5% from 1%.
- 5% compressed biogas mandate to be introduced for organisations marketing natural and bio gas.
- Exemption of excise duty on blended Compressed Natural Gas

MORNING STANDARD, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(14.41)cms X (4.54)cms.

Oil marketing companies get ₹30k cr push

OIL

RAKESH KUMAR @New Delhi

OIL marketing companies (OMCs) received ₹30,000 crore capital infusion from the government in the Budget 2023-24 for the energy transition.

As per the Budget document on capital allocation to the petroleum ministry, the government earmarked ₹30,000 crore as capital support to oil companies, ₹5,000 crore is meant for strategic storage filling of oil reserves, and Rs 180 crore for direct benefit transfer for LPG consumers. "Of the ₹35,000 crore capital expenditure announced, ₹5,000 crore is for strategic storage filling of oil reserves and ₹30,000 crore capital support would be for OMCs to take up projects that contribute towards the goals of the energy transition, security, and net-zero carbon emissions target by 2070," said Finance Minister Niramala Sitharaman.

Meanwhile, the three state-owned oil companies -- Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd -- have reported a combined net loss of ₹21,201 crore during April-September 2022. The loss would have been higher if the government had not paid ₹22,000 crore LPG subsidy to the companies. OMCs witnessed losses due to under-recoveries in petrol, diesel and LPG on account of a record-high crude oil prices, largely due to geopolitical tensions and the freezing of retail prices of auto fuels.

However, this quarter these companies are expected to post profits.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(10.98)cms X (9.38)cms.

Rolling out the red carpet for green growth

Related allocations at ₹70,000 crore; viability gap funding for battery energy storage

SARTHAK RAY

AS INDIA MOVES to cut the carbon intensity of its gross domestic product by 45% from the 2005 levels by 2030, the expert consensus is that Budget has firmly established 'green growth' as a key pillar of the government's economic vision, with related allocations reaching as much as ₹70,000 crore.

A number of announcements can help India meet its renewable energy targets and generate 'green' jobs in the process. "It's truly a dream Budget for the environment sector, be it the announcements on battery storage, sustainable agriculture, or even conservation," says Chandra Bhushan, CEO of iFOREST.

Apart from reiterating the Green Hydrogen Mission goal of 5 million metric tonne by 2030, with an allocation of ₹19,744 crore, the Budget also provides ₹35,000 crore ($4 billion) to the petroleum and natural gas ministry for capital investment in energy security and energy transition. Of this, ₹30,000 crore is earmarked for projects by oil-marketing companies that have energy transition and meeting India's 'net zero by 2070' goal as the focus. For perspective, to reach net zero by 2070, India may need investment of close to $30 billion a year, as per an estimate by the World Resources Institute.

The Budget also provides for viability gap funding (VGF) for battery energy storage systems (BESS) with a 4GWh capacity. Government sources say this could be close to ₹3,500 crore. With the power ministry having released energy storage targets for state electricity utilities last year, the budgetary support for developing energy storage could prove to be quite a boost. However, some experts say that the 4GWh cap could be an impediment. While the VGF announcement is welcome, believes Vibhuti Garg of Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, the 4GWh restriction needs a relook.

"The cap could make the move insufficient when it comes to boosting large scale deployment of BESS and channelising more private sector investment to the space," Garg says.

How the VGF allocation will be used also needs to be spelt out, more so if the cap robs the attractiveness of the support. "The VGF support should be leveraged to increase our understanding of the technology and application, and should not be considered as a continuous tool for support," says Rishabh Jain, senior programme lead, Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW).

"The Budget will lead to significant job creation through the green economy. The allocation for evacuation and grid integration infrastructure in Ladakh can be expected to spur the economic development of this region, which has been neglected for the last few decades," says Vaibhav Chaturvedi, fellow, CEEW. The region has one of the highest number of sunny days per year in the country, while the absence of dust and heat pushes up its potential for solar generation.

The move to exempt capital goods and machinery used in manufacture of lithium-ion batteries from customs duty, with a focus on improving electric mobility, has also been welcomed. India currently imports nearly 70% of Li-ion battery requirement, which stands at 3GWh and is expected to reach 20GWh in three years, as per a report by consulting firm Arthur D Little. The Budget also announced a Green Credit Programme under the Environment (Protection) Act "for encouraging behavioural change" by incentivising sustainable action by companies, individuals, and local bodies; there could be possible monetisation of such credits as the programme is expected to help mobilise additional resources for such activities.

Various other initiatives announced, such as Mishti and Amrit Dharohar, that are aimed at conservation efforts in mangrove-rich areas and wetlands can prove to be considerable green boosts. "These are important programmes, especially with respect to our disaster management strategy in the face of climate change," Bhushan says.

₹35,000-crore outlay to achieve energy transition

New Delhi, Feb. 1: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday provided an outlay of ₹35,000 crore to achieve energy transition and net zero objectives and listed green growth among seven priorities of the government.

"I come to the fifth priority -- green growth. Prime minister has given vision for LiFE, or lifestyle for environment. To spur a movement for environmentally conscious lifestyle, India is moving firmly for the panchamrit, the net zero carbon emission by 2070, usher in green industrial and economic transition. This budget builds on our focus on green growth," the finance minister said in her budget speech in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

For energy transition, she told the House that this budget provides for ₹35,000 crore for priority capital investment towards energy transition and net zero objectives and an energy security by ministry of petroleum and natural gas.

Earlier in November, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070 under the Paris Agreement at the United Nations climate conference COP26 in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

She also spoke about the recently launched National Green Hydrogen Mission with an outlay of ₹19,700 crore, which will facilitate transition of economy to low carbon intensity, reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports and make the country adopt technology and market leadership in this sector.

"Our target is to reach an annual (green hydrogen) production of five MMT by 2030," she said.

She told that the House that government will provide viability gap funding for 4,000 MWh battery energy storage systems.

₹35K cr to power energy transition

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

Aiming to introduce green energy initiatives in the Indian economy across multiple sectors, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a slew of measures to push 'Green Growth,' and listed it as one of the seven priorities of the government in the Budget.

Among the key projects is 'Battery Energy Storage Systems', with capacity of 4,000 MW. The project will be supported with viability gap funding. Leading companies in the US and Europe have already developed such systems and some initial work is on in India too. An interstate transmission system for evacuation and grid integration of 13 Gigawatt renewable energy from Ladakh with Rs 20,700 crore investment (that includes Rs 8,300 crore central support) was also announced.

The Budget provided Rs 35,000 crore for priority capital investment toward energy transition, net zero objectives and energy security to be implemented by the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The government also allocated a sum of Rs 500 crore for the green energy corridor that include capacity addition under the intra-state green corridor project.

Some projects of the Metros and Indian Railways will be covered under the sovereign green fund. This fund was announced last year as a new avenue to finance climate targets and green ambitions.

Replacing old polluting vehicles was an important part of greening the economy. "I have allocated adequate funds to scrap the old vehicles of the Central Government. States will also be supported in replacing old vehicles and ambulances," Sitharaman said during her Budget speech.

FOR GREEN GROWTH

- Among key projects is 'Battery Energy Storage Systems' with 4,000 MW capacity
- ₹35,000 cr is for priority capital investment toward energy transition, net zero objectives and energy security
- ₹500 cr for green energy corridor that includes intra-state capacity addition
- MSMEs will be provided green and sustainable manufacturing technology
- Green hydrogen mission has been allocated ₹297 crore
- Some Metro and Railway projects to be covered under the sovereign green fund

Stepping on gas for green energy switch, net-zero emission

Team TOI

The government has matched its words with money by putting Rs 35,000 crore on the table for transition to green energy, as part of India's 2070 'net zero' emission ambition.

The money will be used to support new-age energy solutions ranging from green hydrogen and ammonia, battery storage and transmission lines for evacuating renewable power and biofuels such as biogas and ethanol — petrol laced with ethyl alcohol.

The Budget intent takes a cue from the Economic Survey that had on Tuesday said that the government needs to show the money for its ambitious green agenda.

True to the Budget intention, part of the money will be used for providing VGF (viability gap funding) for 4,000 MWh (megawatt-hour) to reduce the tariff initially till a domestic market scales up and prices come down. A framework for pumped storage generation projects will also be formulated.

Both these technologies will play a key role in the government's bid to promote round-the-clock solar or wind power projects by providing standby power during night or no-wind scenarios. They will be an important element for maintaining grid stability as the share of renewables rises.

AP

CLEAN SWEEP FOR CLEANER ENERGY

VGF of Rs 8,000 crore for the proposed Rs 20,700-crore transmission line for evacuating power from the proposed 13 GW solar-wind-battery storage project in Ladakh. The support will reduce the transmission tariff and breathe life into the proposed showstopper renewable project that has the potential to change the socio-economic scenario in the Union territory.

The Budget also turned its focus on biofuels by reducing customs duty on denatured ethyl alcohol to improve availability as the government moves for blending 20% ethanol — petrol blended with ethyl alcohol — and flex engines with the aim of reducing automotive emission.

As natural gas has been identified as the transition fuel, all natural gas entities marketing natural gas will have to earmark 5% of sales to CGD (city gas distribution) projects. This is expected to raise supply for CNG and PNG projects being set up in 400 districts at an investment of Rs 80,000 crore.

GST-paid biogas used for blending in CNG (compressed natural gas) has been exempted from excise duty to promote biogas projects that have a positive bearing on waste management in cities and potential to create rural earning avenues.

The government last month announced Rs 19,700 crore funding to seed the green hydrogen market, including domestic manufacturing of electrolysers, with the aim of achieving 5 million tonne annual green hydrogen production capacity by 2030. It also wants to achieve 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel-based power capacity by 2030.

हरित अर्थव्यवस्था

ऊर्जा परिवर्तन को मिला आवंटन से दम

'शुद्ध शून्य 2070' और जलवायु लक्ष्यों के अनुरूप हरित औद्योगिक और आर्थिक परिवर्तन को दिया गया बढ़ावा

बीएस संवाददाता

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने हरित अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए कई नीतियों की घोषणा की है। हरित विकास को अमृत काल का प्रमुख घटक बनाना आने वाले 25 वर्षों के लिए भाजपा शासित केंद्र सरकार का सपना है। देश के शुद्ध शून्य 2070 और संबंधित जलवायु लक्ष्यों के अनुरूप केंद्रीय बजट में हरित औद्योगिक और आर्थिक परिवर्तन को बढ़ावा दिया गया है।

रिकॉर्ड स्तर का बजट अनुदान ऊर्जा परिवर्तन के लिए किया गया है, जो अर्थव्यवस्था के कार्बन उत्सर्जन को कम करने और हरित ईंधन तथा हरित ऊर्जा स्रोतों की ओर छलांग लगाने की दिशा में एक महत्त्वपूर्ण चालक होगा।

वित्त मंत्री ने पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम के तहत ग्रीन क्रेडिट कार्यक्रम की भी घोषणा की है

सीतारमण ने अपने बजट भाषण में कहा, 'यह बजट पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय द्वारा ऊर्जा परिवर्तन और शुद्ध शून्य (नेट जीरो) उद्देश्यों और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा की दिशा में प्राथमिकता प्राप्त पूंजीगत निवेशों के लिए 35,000 करोड़ रूपये का प्रावधान किया गया है।'

केंद्र ने तेल मंत्रालय पर भरोसा जताया है, जिसके पास देश के ऊर्जा परिवर्तन के संचालन के लिए स्वाभाविक रूप से सबसे अधिक जीवाश्म ईंधन की पहुंच है। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के व्यय बजट के अनुसार तेल विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) को 30,000 करोड़ रुपये तथा शेष राशि रणनीतिक तेल भंडार के लिए आवंटित की गई है। उम्मीद जताई जा रही है कि तेल विपणन कंपनियों के लिए पूंजीगत व्यय आधुनिक समय के ईंधन - हरित हाइड्रोजन, एथनॉल और अन्य जैव ईंधन पर केंद्रित होगा।

वर्तमान में तेल विपणन कंपनियां हरित हाइड्रोजन उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए एक व्यापक योजना का मसौदा तैयार करने की प्रक्रिया में लगी हुई हैं। 19,000 करोड़ रुपये के नए घोषित हरित हाइड्रोजन मिशन के तहत रिफाइनरियों सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के लिए हरित हाइड्रोजन की अनिवार्य खरीद निर्धारित की गई है।

तेल विपणन कंपनियों ने जैव अवशेषों और कृषि अपशिष्ट से एथनॉल का उत्पादन करना शुरू भी कर दिया है। यह योजना पेट्रोलियम के साथ अधिक स्तर पर एथनॉल मिश्रण के केंद्र के दीर्घकालिक लक्ष्य के अनुरूप है।ई20 या 20 प्रतिशत एथनॉल मिश्रण वाले पेट्रोलियम की खुदरा बिक्री 1 अप्रैल से की जाएगी।

निवेशकों की दिलचस्पी और बढ़ाने के लिए 4,000 मेगावॉट क्षमता तक के बैटरी एनर्जी स्टोरेज सिस्टम (बीईएसएस) और पंप्ड स्टोरेज प्रोजेक्ट्स को 'वायबिलिटी गैप फंडिंग' (वीजीएफ) से सहायता प्रदान की जाएगी। लद्दाख से 13 गीगावॉट अक्षय ऊर्जा की निकासी और ग्रिड एकीकरण के लिए बनाई जा रही 20,700 करोड़ रुपये वाली अंतर-राज्यीय पारेषण प्रणाली के लिए 8,300 करोड़ रुपये की केंद्रीय सहायता की घोषणा की गई।

वित्त मंत्री सीता रमण ने पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम के तहत एक ग्रीन क्रेडिट कार्यक्रम की भी घोषणा की है।

सॉवरिन ग्रीन फंड के तहत अनुदान पाने वाली 19,000 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजनाएं

भारत के पहले सॉवरिन ग्रीन फंड के तहत सौर, पवन, हरित सिंचाई पंप और मेट्रो रेल परियोजनाओं को 19,858 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित किए गए हैं। भारत के पहले सॉवरिन ग्रीन बॉन्ड से प्राप्त होने वाले धन से यह कोष बनाए जाने की उम्मीद है, जिसकी घोषणा पिछले बजट में हुई थी। पिछले बजट में हरित योजना के तहत सॉवरिन ग्रीन बॉन्ड प्रमुख थे। बढ़ते हरित ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में निवेशकों की रुचि बढ़ाने के लिए वित्त मंत्री ने पिछले साल पहले सॉवरिन ग्रीन बॉन्ड जारी करने की घोषणा की थी, जिससे ग्रीन इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर के लिए संसाधन जुटाया जा सके।

एक साल बाद रिजर्व बैंक ने अब 2 ग्रीन बॉन्डों की नीलामी जारी की, जो 5 साल और 10 साल के हैं। दोनों बॉन्ड 4,000-4000 करोड़ रुपये के हैं। पिछले बजट में कहा गया था कि इस प्रक्रिया से मिलने वाले धन को सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की परियोजनाओं में लगाया जाएगा, जिससे अर्थव्यवस्था में कार्बन की मात्रा में कमी आ सके। इतनी ही राशि के बॉन्ड इस महीने भी आने की उम्मीद है। केंद्र इस वित्त वर्ष में ग्रीन बॉन्ड से 16,000 करोड़ रुपये जुटाने पर विचार कर रहा है। बहरहाल बजट में कोई स्पष्टीकरण नहीं दिया गया है कि बॉन्ड से ही ग्रीन फंड जुटाया जाएगा या केंद्र अन्य स्रोतों पर भी विचार करेगा। रेल मंत्रालय को ग्रीन फंड के तहत सबसे ज्यादा 12,479 करोड़ रुपये मिले हैं।

ऊर्जा-परिवर्तन तथा नेट जीरो उद्देश्यों के लिए 35,000 करोड़

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने बुधवार को अपने बजट भाषण में कहा कि इस बजट में पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय द्वारा ऊर्जा-परिवर्तन तथा निवल-शून्य (नेट जीरो) उद्देश्यों और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा की दिशा में प्राथमिकता प्राप्त पूंजीगत निवेशों के लिए 35,000 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है।

सीतारमण ने लोकसभा में अपने बजट भाषण में कहा, 'भारत हरित उद्योग और आर्थिक परिवर्तन लाने के लिए वर्ष 2070 तक 'पंचामृत'' तथा निवल-शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन की ओर दृढ़ता से आगे बढ़ रहा है। पर्यावरण के प्रति सजग जीवन शैली के आंदोलन को गति देने के लिए 'लाइफ'' अथवा पर्यावरण के लिए जीवनशैली की संकल्पना की गई है। यह बजट विकास पर दिए गए हमारे विशेष ध्यान पर आधारित है, जो अमृतकाल में हमारा मार्गदर्शन करेगा।''

PIONEER (HINDI), Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 5, Size:(27.08)cms X (10.28)cms.

खुदाई के दौरान गैस लीकेज से हो रहीं से आग की घटनाएं

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। फरीदाबाद

कभी सीवरेज लाइन की खुदाई, तो कभी अन्य कामों के लिए होने वाली खुदाई के दौरान शहर में जगह-जगह पीएनजी पाइप लाइन फटने से आग लगने की घटनाएं हो रही हैं। लेकिन फिर भी गैस कंपनियों के व्यक्तियों को मौके पर बुलाकर काम नहीं किया जाता है। ऐसे में बड़ा हादसा भी हो सकता है।

बुधवार को भी भारत कालोनी में एक सड़क निर्माण कार्य के दौरान गैस की पाईप लाइनों पर ध्यान नहीं

सड़क बनाने के दौरान जेसीबी से की गई खुदाई में गैस लीक होने से लगी आग

दिया गया। पाईप लाइन जेसीबी से खुदाई के दौरान फटने से आग लग गई। घटना में मौके पर मौजूद एक खाद्य पदार्थ विक्रेता की रेहड़ी में आग लग गई। जिससे उसकी रोजी-रोटी का सहारा छिन गया। शहर में पहले भी ऐसी घटनाएं हो चुकी है। लेकिन इसके बावजूद

पाईप लाईन फटने से गैस लीकेज के कारण लगी आग का दृश्य।

अधिकारी इस ओर ध्यान नहीं दे रहे हैं।

पहले भी फटी लाइनें : बुधवार को नहरपार स्थित भारत कालोनी में सड़क की खुदाई के दौरान पाईप लाइन फटने से आग लग गई। करीब आधे घंटे बाद फायर बिग्रेड ने आग पर काबू पाया। इस हादसे में एक रेहड़ी जलकर खाक हो गई। इससे पहले 14 दिसंबर 2020 को बल्लभगढ़ के सेक्टर-दो व 64 की डिवाईडिंग रोड पर सीवर की खुदाई के दौरान पाइप लाइन फटने से दो हजार घरों में चार घंटे गैस सप्लाई बंद हो गई थी।

तीन अप्रैल 2021 को डीएलएफ इलाके में एक कम्पनी के निकट जेसीबी से खुदाई के दौरान पीएनजी पाइप फटने से कंपनी के बाहर खड़ी कई बाइके और कार आग की चपेट में आग गई थी। 23 अक्टूबर 2021 को सारन चौक के समीप खुदाई के दौरान गैस की पाइप लाइन धमाके के साथ फट गई थी। जिससे करीब एक घंटे तक गैस लीक होती रही थी। 25 मार्च 2022 को भी बाईपास रोड पर खुदाई के दौरान गैस की पाइप लाइन फट गई थी।

लोगों का कथन : बुधवार को भारत कालोनी में आग लगने की घटना के बाद मौके पर मौजूद लोगों ने कहा कि अगर जमीन की खुदाई की जाती है, तो सबसे पहले गैस पाइप लाइन वालों को बुलाना चाहिए। ताकि किसी तरह की कोई घटना घटित न हो। ऐसे में कभी बड़ी घटना भी घटित हो सकती है।

VIRAT VAIBHAV, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 15, Size:(6.09)cms X (7.53)cms.

चालू वित्त वर्ष में खाद्य, उर्वरक , पेट्रोलियम सब्सिडी 5.21 लाख करोड़ रुपए रहने का अनुमान

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

खाद्य, उर्वरक और पेट्रोलियम पर सरकार की सब्सिडी चालू वित्त वर्ष में 17 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 5.21 लाख करोड़ रुपए रहने का अनुमान है। अगले वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 में इसके 28 प्रतिशत कम होकर करीब 3.75 लाख करोड़ रुपए रहने का अनुमान है। बजट दस्तावेज के अनुसार, सरकार ने वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 के लिए अपने संशोधित अनुमान (आरई) में खाद्य, उर्वरक और पेट्रोलियम पर कुल सब्सिडी 5,21,584.71 करोड़ रुपए रहने का अनुमान लगाया है। पिछले वित्त वर्ष में इसका वास्तविक बजट 4,46,149.24 करोड़ रुपए था। इन तीन मदों पर कुल सब्सिडी में से चालू वित्त वर्ष में खाद्य सब्सिडी मामूली रूप से घटकर 2,87,194.05 करोड़ रुपए रहने का अनुमान है, जो 2021-22 में 2,88,968.54 करोड़ रुपए थी। हालांकि, इस वित्त वर्ष के दौरान उर्वरक सब्सिडी बढ़कर 2,25,220.16 करोड़ रुपए होने का अनुमान है, जो पिछले वित्त वर्ष में1,53,758.10 करोड़ रुपए थी। इस दौरान यूरिया पर सब्सिडी1,00,988.13 करोड़ रुपए से बढ़कर1,54,097.93 करोड़ रुपए हो गई है, जबकि फॉस्फेटिक और पोटाशिक (पी एंड के) उर्वरकों पर सब्सिडी 52,769.97 करोड़ रुपए से बढ़कर 71,122.23 करोड़ रुपए हो गई है। पेट्रोलियम सब्सिडी भी उक्त अवधि में 3,422.60 करोड़ रुपए से बढ़कर 9,170.50 करोड़ रुपए होने का अनुमान है। चालू वित्त वर्ष के दौरान केंद्र ने रूस-यूक्रेन संघर्ष के बीच वैश्विक कीमतों में तेज वृद्धि को देखते हुए यूरिया के साथ-साथ फॉस्फेटिक और पोटाश (पी एंड के) उर्वरकों पर सब्सिडी बढ़ाने का फैसला किया ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि किसानों को कम कीमत पर उर्वरक मिलते रहें। अगले वित्त वर्ष के लिए खाद्य, उर्वरक और पेट्रोलियम पर कुल सब्सिडी 2022-23 में 5,21,584.71 करोड़ रुपए से 28 प्रतिशत घटकर 3,74,707.01 करोड़ रुपए रहने का अनुमान है।

इसमें से उर्वरक सब्सिडी चालू वित्त वर्ष के 2,25,220.16 करोड़ रुपए से घटकर 2023-24 में1,75,099.92 करोड़ रुपए रहने का अनुमान है। पेट्रोलियम सब्सिडी चालू वित्त वर्ष के 9,170.50 करोड़ रुपए से घटकर 2,257.09 करोड़ रुपए रहने का अनुमान है। खाद्य सब्सिडी, वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 के 2,87,194.05 करोड़ रुपए से घटकर अगले वित्तवर्ष में1,97,350 करोड़ रुपए रहने का अनुमान है, क्योंकि सरकार ने महामारी के दौरान शुरू की गई मुफ्त खाद्यान्न योजना को बंद कर दिया है।

DAINIK TRIBUNE, Delhi, 2.2.2023
Page No. 6, Size:(20.12)cms X (15.86)cms.

राहत और प्रगति का रणनीतिक बजट

जयंतीलाल भंडारी

वित्तमंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण द्वारा प्रस्तुत वर्ष 2023-24 का बजट एक ऐसा रणनीतिक बजट है, जिसमें समाज के विभिन्न वर्गों के हितों के पोषण के साथ-साथ विकास दर बढ़ने और बेहतर राजकोषीय प्रबंधन की तस्वीर प्रस्तुत की गई है। वास्तव में आगामी वर्ष का यह बजट आर्थिक कल्याण के साथ आर्थिक विकास की दिशा में कदम है।

इसमें कोई दो मत नहीं कि आगामी वित्तीय वर्ष का बजट प्रस्तुत करते हुए वित्तमंत्री के सामने वैश्विक सुस्ती, महंगाई तथा वर्तमान सरकार का लोकसभा चुनाव 2024 के पहले का आखिरी पूर्ण बजट होने के मद्देनजर लोगों को लुभाने की चुनौतियां भी थीं। लेकिन इस बार वित्तीय वित्तमंत्री के समक्ष वित्तीय मुश्किलें कुछ कम थीं। सरकारी खजाने की स्थिति संतोषप्रद होने, पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर उत्पाद शुल्क में कटौती करने और विनिवेश लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति उम्मीद से कम होने के बावजूद राजकोषीय घाटे के मोर्चे पर नियंत्रण, कच्चे तेल के दाम ऊंचे स्तरों से नीचे आने की अनुकूलता, ऋण आवंटन की मजबूत दर और महामारी के कारण दो साल की मंदी के बाद भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के रिकवरी के रास्ते पर आने से वर्ष 2022 की तिमाहियों में कर संग्रह में लगातार बढ़ोतरी अनुकूलताएं थीं। 31 जनवरी को प्रस्तुत आर्थिक समीक्षा में कहा गया है कि सरकार चालू वित्त वर्ष में राजकोषीय घाटे को सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) के 6.4 फीसदी पर समेटने का लक्ष्य हासिल कर लेगी।

यही कारण रहा है कि वर्ष 2023-24 का बजट प्रस्तुत करते हुए जहां वित्तमंत्री की एक मुट्ठी आम आदमी की आकांक्षाओं को पूरा करने, वहीं दूसरी मुट्ठी आर्थिक सुधारों संबंधी प्रावधानों के लिए खुलते हुए दिखाई दी। नये बजट से रोजगार वृद्धि, कृषि और किसान हितों, बुनियादी ढांचे की मजबूती, उद्योग-कारोबार की गतिशीलता, रोजगार के नए अवसर, महंगाई पर नियंत्रण, नई मांग का निर्माण, स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं, डिजिटल शिक्षा, ग्रीन एनर्जी पर खर्च बढ़ाने के अलावा छोटे करदाताओं, मध्यम वर्ग, महिला वर्ग, युवा वर्ग और वरिष्ठ नागरिकों की उम्मीदों को पूरा करने के साथ-साथ बेहतर विकास दर के लक्ष्य के लिए कदम बढ़ाए गए हैं। आगामी वर्ष के बजट के माध्यम से अर्थव्यवस्था के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों को गतिशील किए जाने के ऐसे कई प्रावधानों की लम्बी शृंखला है,

जिनसे वर्ष 2023-24 में निर्यात और विदेशी निवेश में वृद्धि, बाजारों में उपभोक्ता मांग में तेजी, विनिर्माण और सर्विस क्षेत्र में बड़ा सुधार, शेयर बाजार की ऊंचाई, बेहतर राजकोषीय नतीजे, जीएसटी संग्रह में उछाल का परिदृश्य निर्मित होते हुए दिखाई दे सकेगा। रेलवे के लिए 2.4 लाख करोड़ रुपये का बजट जारी किया गया है। रेलवे की नई योजनाओं के लिए 75,000 करोड़ रुपये का फंड आवंटित किया जाएगा। रेलवे में 100 नई अहम योजनाओं की शुरुआत की जाएगी। कारीगरों एवं शिल्पकारों को मदद के लिए पीएम विश्वकर्मा कौशल सम्मान पैकेज शुरू किया जाएगा। इससे उत्पादों की गुणवत्ता में इजाफा होगा और लघु उद्योगों में रोजगारों में इजाफा होगा।

नए बजट के तहत कृषि विकास की ऊंची उम्मीदों को साकार करने और देश के करोड़ों छोटे किसानों को संतुष्ट करने के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण बातों पर विशेष ध्यान दिया गया है। चूंकि इस बार का बजट 2024 के लोकसभा चुनाव से पहले का आखिरी पूर्ण बजट है, ऐसे में सरकार कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास पर प्रभावी खर्च बढ़ाते हुए दिखाई दी है। कृषि के बुनियादी ढांचे और कृषि के मशीनीकरण की दिशा में संरचनात्मक सुधार लाने के प्रभावी कदम भी नए बजट में हैं। चूंकि देश की 60 फीसदी आबादी गांव में रहती है और ग्रामीण खपत का अर्थव्यवस्था में करीब 30 फीसदी का योगदान है, ऐसे में नए बजट से ग्रामीण खपत बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया गया है।

राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा कानून के तहत एक जनवरी, 2023 से राशन प्रणाली के तहत एक वर्ष तक देश के 80 करोड़ से अधिक गरीब व कमजोर वर्ग के लोगों को दिए जाने वाले निःशुल्क अनाज के मद्देनजर दो लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक बजट की व्यवस्था की गई है।

नए बजट में राष्ट्रीय कृषि विकास योजना (आरकेवीवाई) के तहत कृषि और संबद्ध क्षेत्रों के समग्र विकास को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए राज्यों को जिला और राज्य कृषि योजनाओं के विकास हेतु आवंटन बढ़ा है। किसानों को उनकी मिट्टी की गुणवत्ता के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान करने के लिए शुरू की गई मृदा स्वास्थ्य कार्ड योजना के बजट में वृद्धि की गई है। साथ ही किसानों को फसल बीमा प्रदान करने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना की आवंटन राशि बढ़ाई गई है। नए बजट में कृषि के डिजिटलीकरण के लिए अधिक प्रावधान, किसानों और कृषि संबंधी सूचनाओं को बेहतर आदान-प्रदान के लिए कृषि सूचना प्रणाली और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी तथा राष्ट्रीय ई-गवर्नेंस योजना को अधिक प्रोत्साहन, कृषि को हाईटेक बनाने के लिए आधुनिक आईटी जैसे आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस और मशीन लर्निंग, ब्लॉक चेन टेक्नोलॉजी, इंटरनेट ऑफ थिंग, रोबोटिक्स आदि के उपयोग पर अधिक प्रावधान, किसानों को बेहतर तकनीक उपलब्ध कराने के साथ ही भूमि रिकॉर्ड के डिजिटलीकरण और कीटनाशकों के छिड़काव में ड्रोन तकनीक मदद पर अधिक प्रावधान और खेती में स्टार्टअप को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अधिक आवंटन किया गया है। नए बजट में किसानों को डिजिटल और हाई-टेक सेवाएं देने के लिए पब्लिक-प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप (पीपीपी) मॉडल में नई योजना शुरू की गई है। इसमें सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के अनुसंधान और विस्तार संस्थान, निजी कृषि-तकनीकी संस्थान और कृषि-मूल्य शृंखला के हितधारक शामिल हैं।

इस बार वित्तमंत्री भारतीय मध्यम वर्ग की टैक्स छूटों में वृद्धि की अपेक्षा पूरे करते हुए भी दिखाई दी हैं। वित्तमंत्री सीतारमण वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 का बजट पेश करते हुए छोटे करदाताओं व मध्यम वर्ग की आर्थिक मुश्किलों को ध्यान में रखते हुए आगे बढ़ीं। छोटे करदाताओं और मध्यम वर्ग की मुश्किलों के बीच आयकर के नए प्रारूप वाले टैक्स स्लैब का पुनः निर्धारण किया गया है। नई टैक्स व्यवस्था में कुल 7 लाख रुपये तक की कमाई वालों पर कोई टैक्स नहीं लगेगा। इसके अलावा टैक्स स्लैब की संख्या अब 7 से घटाकर 5 ही कर दी गई है। पहला स्लैब 3 से 6 लाख तक का होगा, जिसमें 5 फीसदी टैक्स देना होगा। इसके अलावा दूसरा स्लैब 6 से 9 फीसदी का होगा, जिसमें 10 फीसदी टैक्स लगेगा। वहीं तीसरा स्लैब 9 से 12 लाख का होगा, जिस पर 15 फीसदी टैक्स लगेगा। 12 से 15 लाख तक की कमाई पर 20 फीसदी टैक्स लागू होगा। वहीं इससे अधिक की कमाई पर 30 फीसदी टैक्स लागू होगा। वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने महिला सम्मान बचत पत्र योजना का ऐलान बजट में किया है। इस स्कीम के तहत महिलाएं दो साल तक दो लाख रुपये का निवेश कर सकेंगी। इस जमा पर टैक्स में छूट मिलेगी और 7.5 फीसदी का रिटर्न मिलेगा। महिलाओं के लिए यह अपनी तरह की पहली स्कीम है।

निश्चित रूप से वित्तमंत्री सीतारमण ने आगामी वर्ष 2023-24 के बजट में विभिन्न वर्गों के लिए राहतदायी प्रावधान सुनिश्चित किए हैं जिनसे एक ओर समाज के विभिन्न वर्ग और अर्थव्यवस्था के विभिन्न क्षेत्र लाभान्वित होंगे, वहीं अर्थव्यवस्था भी 6 फीसदी से अधिक की विकास दर के साथ आगे बढ़ते हुए दिखाई दे सकेगी।

लेखक अर्थशास्त्री हैं।

कोरोना संकट से उबरते विश्व में रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध से आपूर्ति शृंखला बाधित होने से तमाम बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में विकास दर गिरी है। वहीं भारतीय आर्थिकी उज्ज्वल तस्वीर उकेर रही है। कोरोना संकट के बाद अर्थव्यवस्था रिकवरी की राह पर है। कर-संग्रह में बढ़ोतरी से सरकार का आत्मविश्वास बढ़ा है जिसकी झलक बजट में नजर आई।