

Cooking gas price hiked by ₹50; commercial LPG dearer by ₹350

The price rise comes days after polling concluded in three northeastern states

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: State-run suppliers have raised the prices of domestic cooking gas by ₹50 per cylinder for 313.7 million customers across the country from Wednesday, ahead of Holi and days after polling concluded in three northeastern states, inviting sharp criticism from the Opposition.

This is the first price hike for domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in about eight months. The three public sector firms, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), last revised their rates on July 6, 2022.

Before the latest price revision, a 14.2kg gas cylinder costed ₹1,053 in Delhi, ₹1,052.50 in Mumbai, ₹1,068.50 in Chennai and ₹1,079.00 in Kolkata.

After the latest revision, a 14.2kg gas cylinder will cost ₹1,103 in Delhi, ₹1,102.50 in Mumbai, ₹1,118.50 in Chennai and ₹1,129 in Kolkata, according



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REUTERS

to IOC. The prices vary across the country due to different local levies. Though India's cooking gas market is dominated by the three state-run energy firms – IOC, BPCL and HPCL – it is the IOC rates that are treated as the industry benchmark.

The companies also raised commercial LPG rates by ₹350.50 per 19-kg cylinder, which will now cost ₹2,119.50 per refill in Delhi. This is also the first rate hike of the commercial gas cylinder since July 6, 2022 when it was sold at ₹2,012.50 in the national capital. Since then, its rate was gradually reduced

over time. By November 1, 2022, it became cheaper by ₹268.50. While there was no price hike in December, on January 1, the price increased by ₹25 a litre. Commercial cylinders are used in hotels, restaurants, and for industrial applications.

The Opposition criticised the government for the hikes, particularly the one in domestic LPG with the festival of Holi just days away (March 8). In a tweet on Wednesday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said that this would affect the common man who is already facing high inflation. Congress party mem-

bers also staged walkout from the MP Assembly on the issue.

"Increase the price of domestic cooking gas cylinder by ₹50; commercial gas cylinder ₹350 expensive; The public is asking, now how to make Holi dishes; How long will these orders of loot continue? Every person grinds under the back-breaking inflation implemented by Modi government!" Kharge said.

The CPI(M) demanded a roll-back in the price hike, saying the burden on people will increase at a time when the cost of all food and essential commodities is rising relentlessly.

The BJP did not comment on the matter.

The latest revision is likely to add to the problem of growing inflation. Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 6.5% in the month of January after staying below the critical 6% threshold in November and December. Private analysts believe that February inflation print is also likely to stay above the 6% mark. LPG has a weight of 1.2% in the overall inflation basket and inflation in this subcategory stood at 16.2% in January 2023.

In May 2022, the government announced a targeted subsidy of ₹200 per cooking gas (14.2kg) cylinder for 90 million Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries for up to 12 refills for 2022-23. The move was part of a slew of measures at the time to provide relief to the people from rising inflation. It also included slashing of central duties on petrol by ₹8 a litre and diesel by ₹6 per litre.

LPG is the key fuel for Indian households. According to official data, there are 313.7 crore domestic LPG consumers across the country, covering 105.4% of estimated households based on Census 2011. The LPG coverage is calculated by State-run firms based on the active LPG domestic connections and the estimated number of households.

Cooking gas, commercial LPG to cost more, jet fuel less

Staff Writer

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NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Wednesday raised prices of both domestic and commercial LPG cylinders, while that of jet fuel received a cut in a move that could help lower air fares.

The price of non-subsidized 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder has been increased by ₹50 to ₹1,103 in the national capital, showed data on the Indian Oil Corpsite. The price of the 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder witnessed a steep hike of ₹350.50

to ₹2,119.50 per cylinder.

The hike in domestic cooking gas prices comes after a gap of around seven months post the last revision in July 2022. The price of commercial LPG cylinders which is largely used in restaurant and hotels has been raised twice this year.

With the latest revision, effective 1 March, a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder is priced at ₹1,102.50 in Mumbai, ₹1,129 in Kolkata, and ₹1,118.50 in Chennai.

LPG prices are key elements of a household budget, and an increase in prices may lead to an increase in inflation rate. The country is already under



Domestic LPG price has been raised by ₹50 per cylinder.

MINT

inflationary pressure and the retail inflation is above the 6% upper tolerance limit set by the Reserve Bank of India. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) or retail inflation for January rose

to a three-month high at 6.52%, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

Global energy prices had

surged in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. Although, global prices have largely remained elevated, they have eased from multi-year highs.

Amid the rise in global oil and gas prices in the past one year, OMCs have not increased the retail price of domestic cooking gas commensurate with the trend in international prices, leading to heavy losses being incurred by OMCs on the sale of these fuels as they were selling below global prices. In October, the Centre gave a one-time special grant of ₹22,000 crore to the three companies to compensate them for their

losses on domestic LPG sales.

However, the OMCs have cut the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) by 4%, amid the recent easing of global oil prices owing to a gloomy economic outlook. ATF prices are typically revised on the first of every month based on the average rate of international benchmark and foreign exchange rates. Post the price cut, ATF is priced at ₹1.07 lakh per kilolitre in Delhi, falling from ₹1.12 lakh per kilolitre. With the latest cut in jet fuel prices, consumers may witness some relief in air fares as fuel prices account for about 40% of the operating cost of an airline.

Domestic LPG cylinder price hiked by ₹50; Opposition seeks rollback

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

Cooking gas turned dearer on Wednesday, with the state-owned oil marketing corporations increasing the price of the domestic 14.2-kg cylinder of liquefied petroleum gas by ₹50 each. The price of the commercial 19-kg LPG refill will now go up by more than ₹350.

The price of the domestic cylinder for households has consequently shot up to ₹1,103 in Delhi; ₹1,102.50 in Mumbai; ₹1,118.50 in Chennai; and ₹1,129 in Kolkata.

Opposition parties have slammed the hike, and demanded a rollback. The move by Indian Oil, BPCL and HPCL comes amid mounting fears over rising prices across the board, with home and car loans becoming expensive and growing uncertainties about job security, especially in the technology sector. The hike follows close on the heels of the end of polling in a couple of northeastern States and just ahead of Holi.

The three oil marketing corporations, commanding a lion's share of the LPG market, had previously increased domestic LPG prices by an identical ₹50 a refill in July 2022. Barring those issued LPG connections under the Ujjwala scheme for economically weaker families, most households are either ineligible for or have given up subsidy, and thus face the heat when prices are hiked.

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Domestic LPG cylinder price hiked by ₹50

Though the oil corporations are technically empowered to revise LPG prices every month, they tend to use this power more for commercial cylinders or the bigger refills used by establishments from tea stalls to restaurants. Following the latest revision, a 19-kg LPG cylinder costs ₹2,119.50 in Delhi; ₹2,071.50 in Mumbai; ₹2,268 in Chennai; and ₹2,221.50 in Kolkata.

The Congress and the CPI(M) hit out at the Narendra Modi-led government over the LPG price hikes, demanding an immediate rollback.

Addressing a press conference at Congress headquarters in Delhi, party spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said the Union government could take lessons from Congress-ruled Rajasthan on how to keep cooking gas price below ₹500.

In the nine years of the BJP regime, Mr. Vallabh said the Union government had only paid a subsidy bill of ₹36,500 crore for LPG cylinders, while the Congress-led UPA government had paid ₹2.14 lakh crore in subsidies between 2004 and 2014.

"The loot does not end here. The Modi government imposed 5% GST over LPG cylinders and 18% for commercial gas. The reason for the dismal 4.4% GDP growth in the third quarter is that manufacturing is having a negative growth, a contraction of -1.1%, and the private consumption is not picking up," he alleged, adding that this could not be the economic governance model of any democratic government.

'Common man's burden'

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau also strongly condemned the hike, saying that it further increased the burden on people who are already suffering due to an increase in the prices of food and essential commodities.

"With this hike, more people will drop out from using subsidised cooking gas cylinders as they simply cannot afford it. Already, over 10% of those under Ujjwala Yojana have not taken any refill cylinders during last year. Nearly 12% took only 1 refill. A total of 56.5% took only 4 or less refills against the minimum required annual average of 7+ cylinders, and against an entitlement of 12 cylinders per year," the Polit Bureau statement said.

The party further pointed out that the price of commercial LPG cylinders have been increased for the second time this year.

Domestic LPG price hiked after 8 months

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₹350.50 per 19-kg cylinder, which will now cost ₹2,119.50 per refill in Delhi. Commercial cylinders are used in hotels, restaurants, and for industrial applications.

The Opposition criticised the government for the hikes, particularly the one in domestic LPG with the festival of Holi just days away (March 8). In a tweet on Wednesday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said that this would affect the common man who is already facing high inflation. Congress party members also staged walkout from the MP Assembly on the issue.

The latest revision is likely to add to the problem of growing inflation. Consumer Price Index stood at 6.5% in the month of January after staying below the critical 6% threshold in November and December. →P23

Even frying *pakodas* will now be difficult: Goa opposition leader on LPG price hike

PTI / Panaji

Goa's Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemão on Wednesday slammed the BJP-led Centre for the hike in the prices of LPG and said even frying "pakodas" will now be difficult for the youth.

Cooking gas LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) price on Wednesday was hiked by Rs50 per cylinder. Parallely, oil firms also hiked the price of commercial LPG, used in hotels and restaurants, by Rs350.5 per cylinder.

In an indirect reference to Union home minister Amit Shah's speech in Parliament in 2018 wherein he had said "better to sell pakodas than be jobless", Alemão said, "A commercial LPG cylinder will cost Rs2,118 with a hike of Rs350 per cylinder. Now, even frying pakodas will be difficult for educated unemployed youths."

He said a domestic LPG cylinder will now cost Rs1,117 with the latest price hike.

The Congress leader called the increase in the cooking gas rate another blow to the common man by the BJP-led

MP govt presents ₹3.14lakh-cr budget; Congress walks out against cylinder hike

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday presented a Rs3.14 lakh crore Budget for 2023-24 with a provision of Rs 8,000 crore for Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojna, a new scheme to be rolled out for the welfare women in the state where the assembly poll is due this year-end.

No new taxes were announced in the Budget which was presented by state Finance Minister Jagdish Devda in the Assembly. He described it as the "Budget of the public".

Congress members including former ministers Tarun Bhanot, Vijay Laxmi Sadho and Jitu Patwari created ruckus in the House over the LPG price hike issue the moment Devda started reading out the budget proposals.

Later, the Congress members led by former chief minister Kamal Nath staged a walkout from the House.

"The Centre has increased the price of an LPG cylinder by Rs50, Rs300 on the commercial cylinder, causing a lot of hardships to people," Bhanot told reporters.

He demanded like the Rajasthan government, the BJP government in MP also provide LPG cylinders at Rs500 each (to people below poverty line).

government and said it will result in food items at restaurants and eateries becoming costlier.

Accusing the BJP of continuously putting a financial burden on the people, he said, "This hike will result in the complete collapse of household budgets. This is a finan-

cial emergency imposed by the insensitive BJP government on the middle class and poor." Stressing that the Lok Sabha election is just a year away, Alemão added, "Time has come for people to realise the pro-capitalist and anti-poor agenda of the BJP government."

High demand keeps Feb fuel sales on fast track

Onset Of Summer, Agri Needs Boost Petrol Consumption 13%, Diesel 12%, Jet Fuel 41%

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Petrol, diesel and jet fuel sales continued to gallop in February, prompted by the early onset of summer, farm sector demand, and increased mobility due to expanding economic activities.

Early trade data shows petrol consumption rising 13%, diesel 12% and jet fuel almost 41% over the same month a year ago. Consumption of LPG, mostly used by households for cooking, maintained the usual modest growth of 2.4%.

The growth in consumption was substantially higher than in the same month of 2021 when the economy began firing up after the pandemic. Compared to February 2021, petrol, diesel and jet fuel sales were way higher by 15.7%, 12.1% and 41.3%, respectively.

The growth in diesel sales, however, appeared modest at 7.7% compared to February 2020, when the pandemic

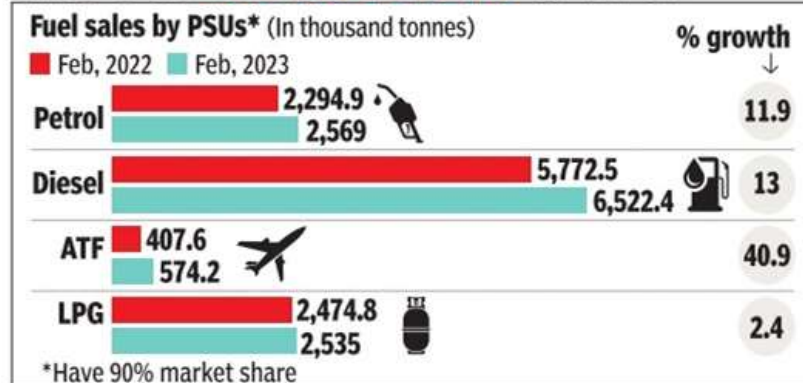
was yet to squeeze demand. Since diesel is a key indicator of economic activities, this indicates a lingering pandemic overhang.

In contrast, petrol sales show a sharp uptick at 20%

tance. Industry is banking on the summer travel season for full recovery.

Sequentially also, the sales in February were higher by 13.5% for petrol, 9.2% for diesel and just 3.3% for jet fuel.

RISE IN ECO ACTIVITY HELPS



versus February 2020 as people's preference for personal vehicles during the post-pandemic unlock period continues, as reflected in robust automobile sales.

Similarly, jet fuel sales have gradually recovered but still remains nearly 10% short of the February 2020 level, indicating some resis-

el, the data shows. The early onset of summer and absence of winter rains have pushed up demand from the farm sector, shown by increased use of diesel pumps for irrigating late standing crops such as mustard. Harvesting in states that have early harvesting further boosted the demand.

India's fuel sales surge in Feb after winter lull

NEW DELHI: India's fuel demand witnessed the sharpest rebound in February as petrol and diesel consumption rose by double digits after a winter lull in the previous month, preliminary industry data showed on Wednesday.

Petrol sales of state-owned fuel retailers jumped 12 per cent to 2.57 million tonne in February, as compared to 2.29 million tonne of consumption in the same period of last year. Sales were 1.57 per cent higher than in COVID-marred February 2021 and 20 per cent more than in the same period of 2020. Month-on-month, the demand was up 13.5

per cent, reversing the dip in the previous month. Sales had fallen 5.1 per cent month-on-month in January as cold conditions cut vehicular movement.

Diesel, the most used fuel in the country, posted a 13 per cent rise in sales during February to 6.52 million tonne, as compared to the same period last year.

Consumption was 12.1 per cent higher than February 2021 and 7.7 per cent more than the same month of 2020. Month-on-month sales surged 9.2 per cent from 5.97 million tonne in January. In January, diesel consumption fell 8.6 per cent month-on-month as snowfall

in higher reaches halted truck movement.

Industry sources said diesel demand surged as trucks returned to roads and rabi sowing season peaked. Use of the fuel in irrigation pumps and trucking helped build the momentum. January sales were lower month-on-month also because the previous month had seen a surge in consumption due to vacation travel. With the continued opening of the aviation sector, India's overall passenger traffic at airports inched closer to pre-Covid levels.

Reflecting the trend, jet fuel (ATF) demand jumped 41 per

cent to 574,200 tonne in February when compared to the same period last year. It was 41.3 per cent higher than February 2021 but 9.7 per cent lower than February 2020. Month-on-month sales were up 3.3 per cent.

LPG sales were up 2.43 per cent year-on-year at 2.53 million tonne in February. LPG consumption was 12 per cent higher than in February 2021 and 22.2 per cent more than in February 2020. Month-on-month, the demand was up 6.14 per cent when compared to 2.38 million tonne of LPG consumption during January, the data showed.

PTI



LPG price hiked by ₹50 per cylinder, ATF price down 4%

COOKING GAS LPG price on Wednesday was hiked by ₹50 per cylinder, while price of jet fuel (ATF) was cut by 4%. The LPG price hike is the first increase in rates in almost eight months and comes within days of end of polling in three northeastern states. A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in Delhi now costs ₹1,103, up from ₹1,053, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

PTI



LPG price hiked by steep Rs 50; ATF price slashed by 4%

A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in Delhi now costs Rs 1,103

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Cooking gas LPG price on Wednesday was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder — the first increase in rates in almost eight months — that came within days of the end of polling in three north-eastern states and was sharply criticised by the Opposition.

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State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan



Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) said Rs 1,103 was the rate for a 14.2-kg non-subsidised LPG cylinder. The government doesn't pay any subsidy to most non-Ujjwala users and this is the rate that

Continued on P4

LPG

they will have to pay for buying cooking gas refills.

The government pays Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy to the 9.58 crore poor who got free LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. The effective price for them would be Rs 903 per cylinder.

State-owned fuel retailers are supposed to revise rates on a monthly basis in line with cost but they have not done so since 2020 and were in October last year given a one-time grant of Rs 22,000 crore to make up for losses they incurred between June 2020 and June 2022. They last revised domestic LPG price on July 4, 2022.

With the latest increase, LPG now costs Rs 1,102.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Mumbai, Rs 1,129 in Kolkata and Rs 1,118.50 in Chennai. Rates differ from state to state depending on local taxes.

Simultaneously, oil firms also hiked the price of commercial LPG, used in hotels and restaurants, by Rs 350.5 to Rs 2,119.5 per 19-kg cylinder. Commercial LPG rates have more or less moved in tandem with cost which soared in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine a year back. Rates of commercial LPG were last hiked by Rs 25 per cylinder in January.

The Opposition criticised the government for raising the fuel rates, particularly of domestic LPG ahead of Holi.

In a tweet, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge

said the common man is suffering from backbreaking inflation under the Modi government. Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv Sena-Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray said this was the Modi government's Holi gift.

Separately, the ATF price was cut by 4 per cent in line with softening international rates of the fuel. Accordingly, jet fuel rates were reduced by Rs 4,606.50 per kilolitre to Rs 1,07,750.27 per kl in Delhi. This reverses the hike in rates affected by an equal measure last month.

ATF price is revised on the 1st of every month based on the average rate of international benchmark and foreign exchange rates.

Petrol and diesel prices, however, continued to remain on freeze for a record 11th month in a row. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62.

LPG prices up by ₹50; first hike in 8 months

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— PTI

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Steep ₹50 hike in LPG price; Opp. criticises Centre

Aviation turbine fuel price cut by 4%

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Rates of commercial LPG were last hiked by ₹25 per cylinder in January.

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— PTI



NSE gets Sebi nod to launch WTI crude oil, natural gas futures contracts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange on Wednesday said it has received approval from markets regulator Sebi to launch the rupee-denominated NYMEX WTI crude oil and natural gas futures contracts in its commodity derivatives segment.

The launch date for these contracts will be announced soon, NSE said in a release.

Last month, the exchange signed a data licensing agreement with CME Group. The pact allows the bourse to list, trade and settle rupee-denominated NYMEX WTI crude oil and natural gas derivatives contracts on its platform.

The addition of these contracts will expand NSE's product offering in the energy basket as well as its overall commodity segment. These contracts are designed to provide the market participants with a more efficient way to manage their price risk, the release said.



ONGC board gets new director for production

ONGC now has a director for production after two directorships were merged as part of a larger board revamp. The post of director (production) has been created after merging director (onshore), who is in charge of all oil and gas fields located on land, and director (offshore) who looks after all offshore assets. Pankaj Kumar, director (offshore), will be the first director (production), ONGC said in a statement.

ONGC gets Director for Production as board revamp kicks in

NEW DELHI: India's top oil and gas producer Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) now has a director for production after two directorships were merged as part of a larger board revamp aimed at breathing fresh life into the state-owned behemoth.

The post of Director (Production) has been created after merging Director (Onshore), who is in charge of all oil and gas fields located on land, and Director (Offshore) who looks after all offshore assets such as the prime Mumbai High fields.

Pankaj Kumar, Director (Offshore), will be the first Director (Production), ONGC said in a stock exchange filing.

Aiding the merger of the two posts was the retirement of Director (Onshore) Anurag Sharma on February 28.

ONGC in the filing said Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has through a letter dated February 28 "conveyed continuance of Pankaj Kumar, Director (offshore), in the newly created post of Director (Production), a post created after merger of the posts of Director (Onshore) and Director (Offshore), with effect from March 1, 2023 till the date of his superannuation i.e. June 30, 2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier."

Prior to this, the ONGC board had six directors for exploration, onshore operations, offshore operations, finance, human resources and technical and field services. It used to be headed by a chairman and managing director.

The government in December last year appointed Arun Kumar Singh, who had retired as head of oil refining and fuel marketing company BPCL, as the chairman of ONGC but not as its managing director. **MPOST**

Petrol, diesel sales rise by double digits in Feb



FUEL DEMAND WITNESSED the sharpest rebound in February. Petrol sales of state-owned fuel retailers jumped 12% to 2.57 million tonne in February, as compared to 2.29 MT of consumption in the same period of last year. Diesel posted a 13% rise in sales during February to 6.52 million tonne, as compared to the same period last year. **PTI**

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Petrol Sales Up 12%, Diesel 13% on Higher Mobility

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Domestic sales of petrol and diesel rose 12% and 13% respectively in February over the same month last year on account of increased mobility of people and goods in an expanding economy.

Petrol and diesel sales in February were 20% and 8% higher respectively than in the same month of 2020 ahead of the Covid lockdowns, according to the preliminary sales data from state-run oil companies. The lockdowns, which began in March 2020, disrupted mobility and sharply cut fuel demand. Jet fuel sales in February were 41% higher than in the same month last year but 10% lower than in 2020, showing how the aviation industry still needed some time to reach the pre-pandemic level.

Sales of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), mainly used for cooking in the country, are up 2.4% from the previous year and 22% higher than in February 2020. Cooking gas demand remained steady through the pandemic while the sales of petrol, diesel and jet fuel fell sharply.

Petrol quickly recovered as lockdowns eased and people started to re-

Fuel Sales Growth in Feb (%)

	Vs Feb '22	Vs Feb '20
Petrol	11.9	20
Diesel	13	7.7
ATF	40.9	-9.7
LPG	2.43	22.2



*State-run oil companies' sales data

turn to the office. Diesel, which makes up 40% of the total refined fuel demand in the country, took time to recover but is now ahead of the pre-Covid level and growing at a solid pace.

Increased industrial and mining activity, less rainfall and increased retail sales have all contributed to higher diesel demand. Petrol sales have been boosted by people increasingly working from the office and travelling for business and pleasure.

Petrol, diesel sales surge in February after winter lull

Press Trust of India

New Delhi

Fuel demand witnessed the sharpest rebound in February as petrol and diesel consumption rose by double digits after a winter lull in the previous month, preliminary industry data showed on Wednesday.

Petrol sales of state-owned fuel retailers jumped 12 per cent to 2.57 million tonne in February, as compared to 2.29 mt in the same period of last year.

Sales were 1.57 per cent higher than in Covid-marred February 2021 and 20 per cent more than in the same period of 2020.

Month-on-month, the demand was up 13.5 per cent, reversing the dip in the previous month. Sales had fallen 5.1 per cent month-on-month in January as cold conditions cut vehicular movement.

Diesel, the most used fuel in the country, posted a 13 per cent rise in sales during February to 6.52 mt, as compared to the same period last year.

SALES PICK UP

Consumption was 12.1 per cent higher than February 2021 and 7.7 per cent more than the same month of 2020.

Month-on-month sales surged 9.2 per cent from 5.97 mt in January.

In January, diesel consumption fell 8.6 per cent month-on-month as snowfall in higher reaches halted truck movement.

Industry sources said diesel demand surged as trucks returned to roads and rabi sowing season peaked. Use of the fuel in irrigation pumps and trucking helped build the momentum.

January sales were lower month-on-month also because the previous month had seen a surge in consumption due to vacation travel.

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NEW DELHI

India's fuel demand witnessed the sharpest rebound in February as petrol and diesel consumption rose by double digits after a winter lull in the previous month, preliminary industry data showed on Wednesday.

Petrol sales of state-owned fuel retailers jumped 12% to 2.57 million tonne in February. Diesel, the most-used fuel in the country, posted a 13% rise in sales during February to 6.52 million tonne.

Petronas sees India, Australia as key markets

Reuters

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Gentari, the clean energy arm of Malaysia's state oil firm Petronas, sees India and Australia as its key markets for growth and expects to tap more financing to meet its ambitious targets, its chief executive officer Sushil Purohit told *Reuters*.

Petronas launched Gentari as a separate entity in June, aiming to build renewable energy capacity of 30-40 gigawatts and produce up to 1.2 million tonnes per year of hydrogen by 2030 in Asia Pacific.

It also plans to establish 25,000 public charging points for electric vehicles.

In an interview on Wednesday, chief executive officer Sushil Purohit said India and Australia will be primary markets for growth in the near term in all fields of operation.

Both countries have provided the right policies to facilitate projects, while Malaysia also has a lot of potential, he said, adding growth could come from acquisitions and organically.

"In terms of expansion, we will seek to collaborate with companies in different markets. If there is a good strategic fit for us, we would look at that

as an opportunity for us to buy into the company or acquire the company in totality," Purohit said. Petronas, like other oil majors, is ramping up investments in clean energy as part of

Petronas is ramping up investments in clean energy as part of its net zero carbon emission goals

its net zero carbon emissions goals. The state-owned company has said it would allocate 20% of its overall capital expenditure for decarbonisation projects and cleaner energy solutions from 2023 to 2026.

Petronas planned capital expenditure of 60 billion ringgit last year.

Gentari's home base of

Malaysia still require policies and incentives that encourage private investments in the sectors, Purohit said, adding that the firm intends to invest strongly in the Southeast Asian nation. Last month, Gentari purchased Australian renewables firm Wirsol Energy, which has solar and battery energy storage systems.

Gentari declined to disclose the price of the purchase, but one source put the enterprise value of the deal at A\$1 billion.

In 2019, before Gentari's formation, Petronas acquired Singapore-based solar energy company Amplus Energy Solutions which has projects in India, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Rising prices of natural gas hit consumption in 2022, says IEA

COST FACTOR. LNG imports dropped by 17 per cent during the year, the steepest fall on record

Rishi Ranjan Kala

New Delhi

The consumption of natural gas in India, the world's third largest energy consumer, fell by 6 per cent y-o-y in 2022 calendar year as high prices weakened demand, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

India consumed 60,523 million standard cubic meters of natural gas in the last calendar year against 64,658 mscm in 2021, data from Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) show.

The decline in consumption, particularly across power, refining and petrochemicals, has largely been on account of high prices of natural gas in international markets as Europe se-



CUTTING BACK. India consumed 60,523 mscm of natural gas in 2022 against 64,658 mscm in 2021 ISTOCK.COM/DARIOEGIDI

cured supplies for the winters at record high prices (average in 2022 at \$34 per mBtu) following the Russia-Ukraine war, which began in February last year.

"India's gas consumption is estimated to have declined by 6 per cent in 2022 as high prices squeezed gas demand for

power generation (down 24 per cent y-o-y), refining (down 30 per cent y-o-y) and petrochemicals sector (down 32 per cent y-o-y in particular," IEA said in its gas market report for Q1 2023.

CGD DEMAND FLAT

City gas demand was broadly flat, while consumption in the

fertiliser segment and other end uses (which include agriculture, upstream operations and other industries) saw modest expansion throughout 2022, although they were not enough to compensate for the steep declines in the more price-sensitive sectors of the economy, it added.

In Asia, LNG spot prices averaged at \$34 per mBtu in 2022, which is more than five times the five-year average between 2016 and 2020.

"In 2023, total gas consumption is expected to increase by 4 per cent, thanks to a modest recovery in power sector gas use and continuing – albeit slow – growth in the industrial and city gas sectors," the global agency tracking the energy sector has projected.

Price-driven fuel-switching

played the leading role in suppressing LNG demand, but a modest 3 per cent increase in domestic production also contributed to the decrease in LNG inflows, IEA said.

GAS PRODUCTION

As per PPAC, India's gas production, which accounts for half of the country's demand, stood at 33,362 mscm in 2022 compared to 32,362 mscm in 2021.

India's LNG imports dropped by 17 per cent in 2022, the steepest fall on record and the first decline covering two consecutive years in India's two-decade history as an LNG importer, the IEA report revealed.

India imported 27,161 mscm of LNG in 2022 against 32,655 mscm in 2021.

STRONG UPTICK At 1.6 million barrels per day, Russian supplies now make up 35% of India's total crude oil imports, more than the combined share of Iraq and Saudi Arabia – the second and third-largest suppliers

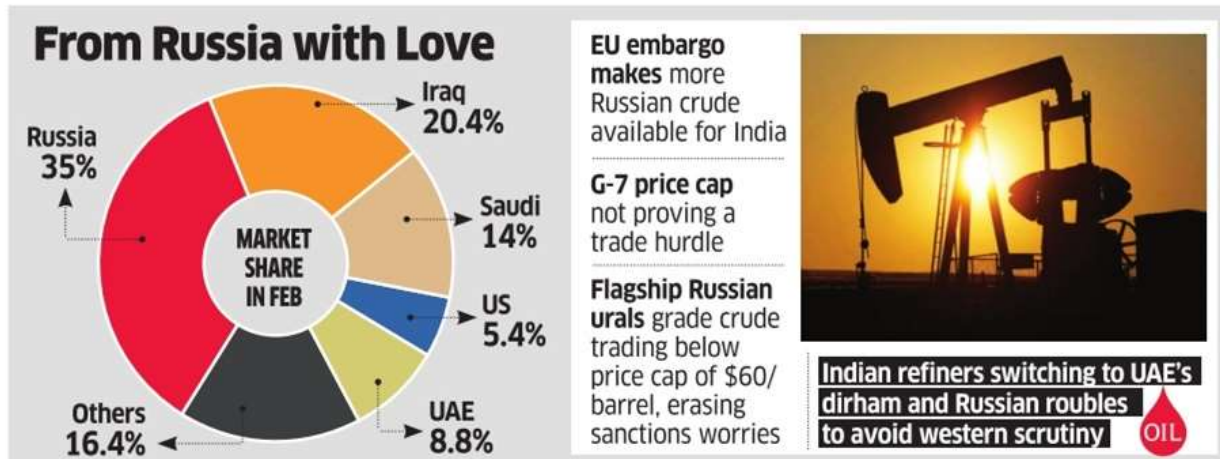
Russian Crude Imports in Feb up 28% Over Jan

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New Delhi: India imported a record 1.6 million barrels per day of crude oil from Russia in February, which made up 35% of its total import and was more than the combined share of Iraq and Saudi Arabia, the second and third-largest suppliers, according to energy cargo tracker Vortexa.

The imports from Russia surged 28% over the previous month as an embargo on Russian crude by the European Union made more supplies available to the Indian refiners and the G-7 price cap didn't quite obstruct trade. Historically a minor user of Russian oil due to costly logistics, India imported less than 1% of its crude from Russia in 2021 and no oil at all in February last year.

"The strong uptick is a clear sign that Russian crude is well-received by Indian refiners in lieu of its attractive price," said Serena



Huang, analyst at Vortexa. The surge in Russian supplies has hit Iraq and Saudi Arabia, whose combined share in Indian imports has fallen to 34% from 43% in February 2022, when the Russian invasion of Ukraine began, triggering a massive reshuffle of the global oil trade. The shares of Africa and the US in the Indian market have also dropped.

India's import of refined products from Russia has also risen. Import of naphtha rose 15 times from 3,800 barrels per day in January to 57,000 barrels per day in February. Imports of Russian fuel oil, however, fell a quarter in a month to 123,000 barrels per day in February. "Imports of Russian fuel oil have fallen as a result of more supplies diverted to Saudi Arabia and

China last month," Huang said.

The price cap hasn't dented imports but made it harder for Indian refiners such as HPCL, BPCL and Indian Oil to pay for Russian oil, according to people familiar with the matter. The western banks are seeking trade details to ensure payments are being made only for Russian oil purchased below the cap. Since all dollar trans-

actions are settled in the US, Indian refiners are switching to UAE's dirham and Russian roubles to pay for cargoes bought at prices above the cap, they said.

"India's continued import of Russian crude is predicated on having financial and logistical services to support the trade, for sure," Huang said. "Given the favourable economics that Russian crude offers, I believe the Indian government will work with HPCL and any other public sector refiners facing payment challenges to resolve the issue."

The G-7 countries imposed a price cap on crude in December and on refined products in February. Any deal struck above the cap cannot be supported by the financiers, insurers and shippers based in G-7 countries. Russia exports multiple grades of crude but its flagship Urals, which comprises about 80% of India's Russian imports, has been trading below the cap of \$60 per barrel. This has made the cap redundant for most trades.

The impact of LPG price hike

It will hurt the poor, may spur inflation, and possibly generate headwinds for the economy

On Wednesday, the Union government announced a hike in prices of domestic and commercial LPG cylinders. The price of the domestic cylinder, weighing 14.2 kg, has been increased by ₹50. It will now cost more than ₹1,100 in Delhi. The price of a commercial cylinder, weighing 19 kg, has been increased by ₹350. In an ideal world, changes in the prices of LPG cylinders should not make the news. The Narendra Modi government has all but abolished LPG subsidies, and prices are supposed to be aligned to market rates on the same lines as petrol and diesel. However, in reality, this is not how prices behave. The latest price hike is the first in eight months and comes immediately after the completion of an election cycle. Energy prices moving in accord with election cycles is a well-established pattern and underlines the gap between *de jure* and *de facto* commitment to deregulation of energy prices.

Will the latest price hike have a broader macroeconomic impact? As far as inflation is concerned, one will have to wait for the March numbers, which will be released in the second week of April. While the overall contribution to the headline inflation number might not be very large, a hike of ₹50 per cylinder over already high LPG prices is bound to hurt poor households. At a time when cereal inflation is high, this will only add to their distress and perhaps generate more tailwinds for a wage price spiral among the blue-collared workforce. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which will meet before the March inflation numbers are released, is unlikely to ignore this development. With analysts believing the February inflation print to be running above RBI's tolerance band, an inflationary shock for an essential commodity will only add to inflationary expectations and, therefore, the hawkish sentiment around monetary policy — laying the ground for another rate hike in the April meeting of the MPC.

All this is bound to generate headwinds for the economy, which most analysts believe is losing momentum. But could the government have done things differently? While one must acknowledge the pressure on account of the fiscal consolidation commitment it has made in the budget, greater transparency in the pricing of energy products is needed to answer this question.

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आईजीएल गैस पाइप लाइन में आग लगी

गाजियाबाद। कविनगर थानाक्षेत्र के गोविंदपुर में मंगलवार देर रात एक घर के बाहर आईजीएल गैस पाइपलाइन में आग लग गई। घटना के वक्त मकान में करीब 15 लोग मौजूद थे। इन लोगों को पड़ोसियों की छत से बाहर निकाला गया। दमकल और एनडीआरएफ की टीम ने आग पर काबू पाया।

ओएनजीसी के उत्पादन निदेशक पद पर पंकज कुमार की नियुक्ति

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। देश में तेल एवं गैस क्षेत्र की प्रमुख कंपनी ओएनजीसी के निदेशक मंडल में व्यापक फेरबदल के बाद गठित निदेशक (उत्पादन) के पद पर पंकज कुमार को नियुक्ति की गई है। ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) ने बुधवार को शेयर बाजार को यह सूचना दी। इसके मुताबिक, पंकज कुमार कंपनी के पहले निदेशक (उत्पादन) होंगे। ओएनजीसी के मुताबिक, पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने निदेशक (अपतटीय) पद पर तैनात पंकज कुमार को एक मार्च से नवगठित पद पर तैनात करने के प्रस्ताव की संस्तुति दे दी है। वह जून, 2026 तक अपने पद पर रहेंगे। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी ओएनजीसी के निदेशक मंडल ढांचे में किए गए फेरबदल के तहत निदेशक (तटवर्ती) और निदेशक (अपतटीय) पदों को मिलाकर निदेशक (उत्पादन) का नया पद बनाया गया है। इस पद पर नियुक्त होने वाला निदेशक कंपनी की तटीय एवं अपतटीय दोनों तरह की उत्पादन गतिविधियों के लिए उत्तरदायी होगा। इसके अलावा निदेशक (रणनीति एवं कॉर्पोरेट मामले) का भी एक नया पद सृजित किया गया है।

नियामकों के पद खाली रहने से नीतिगत फैसलों पर पड़ रहा है असर

रुचिका चित्रवंशी और शुभायन चक्रवर्ती
नई दिल्ली, 1 मार्च

सरकार ने 4 माह में दूसरी बार पिछले सप्ताह भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग के नए चेयरमैन के पद के लिए आवेदन मांगा है। यह पद पिछले साल 25 अक्टूबर को अशोक कुमार गुप्ता के सेवानिवृत्त होने के बाद से खाली पड़ा है।

प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग एकमात्र नियामक नहीं है, जहां चेयरमैन की तलाश हो रही है।

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड (पीएनजीआरबी) पिछले 2 साल से बगैर चेयरमैन के काम कर रहा है। इस पद के लिए दो बार विज्ञापन जारी किया जा चुका है और आखिरी बार पिछले साल जून में जारी किया गया था। पीएनजीआरबी के चेयरमैन का पद 4 दिसंबर, 2020 से खाली पड़ा है, जब दिनेश के श्राफ ने 3 साल कार्यकाल पूरा किया था। सरकार चयन प्रक्रिया चला रही है, लेकिन अब तक कोई

इस पद के लिए नहीं मिल पाया है।

सरकार ने कहा है कि पेंशन फंड नियामक एवं विकास प्राधिकरण (पीएफआरडीए) के चेयरमैन सुप्रतिम बंधोपाध्याय के उत्तराधिकारी की तलाश चल रही है, जिनका कार्यकाल इस साल जनवरी में खत्म हो गया।

विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि इन रणनीतिक आर्थिक नियामक निकायों में नेतृत्व न होने की स्थिति में अहम नीतिगत फैसले रुके हुए हैं और इससे नियामकों की निगरानी कमजोर हुई है।

वित्तीय सेवा विभाग के पूर्व सचिव डीके मित्तल ने कहा, 'यह बेहतर प्रशासनिक गतिविधि नहीं है और कॉर्पोरेट जगत में गलत संदेश जा रहा है। पदासीन व्यक्ति के सेवानिवृत्त होने के 3 महीने पहले उत्तराधिकारी की तलाश शुरू की जाती है। नौकरशाही को इस पर गंभीर होने की जरूरत है।'

उदाहरण के लिए अपर्याप्त कोरम के कारण पिछले अक्टूबर से मिली शिकायतों के खिलाफ सीसीआई कोई कार्रवाई करने में सक्षम नहीं हुआ



है। तीन सदस्यों का कोरम पूरा नहीं हो पा रहा है क्योंकि चेयरमैन का पद अभी भरा जाना बाकी है।

कानूनी परामर्श के बाद प्रतिस्पर्धा की निगरानी करने वाले आयोग ने आवश्यकता के सिद्धांत का इस्तेमाल कर कोरम की उपेक्षा कर विलय के

नियामक पद पड़े हैं खाली

■ पीएनजीआरबी के चेयरमैन दिनेश श्राफ ने 4 दिसंबर, 2020 को कार्यकाल पूरा किया

■ सीसीआई के चेयरमैन अशोक गुप्ता का कार्यकाल 25 अक्टूबर 2022 को पूरा हुआ

■ पीएफआरडीए के चेयरमैन सुप्रतिम बंधोपाध्याय 16 जनवरी, 2023 को हटे

■ नियामकों के पद खाली होने की वजह से कई फैसले अटक गए हैं

लंबित आवेदनों को निपटाने का फैसला किया। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि यह आवश्यकता से ज्यादा सुविधा की नीति है और सरकार को चेयरमैन की नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया में तेजी लानी चाहिए।

पेट्रोलियम नियामक में चेयरमैन न होने के

कारण तमाम अहम नीतिगत काम अटके पड़े हैं, जिसमें पीएनजीआरबी ऐक्ट में संशोधन शामिल है। इस संशोधन से नियामक को सिटी गैस पाइपलाइन को कॉमन कैरियर के रूप में वर्गीकृत करने की योजना को लेकर ज्यादा अधिकार मिल जाएगा।

नीति आयोग में विज्ञान और तकनीक के सदस्य वीके सारस्वत की अध्यक्षता में बनी तलाश-चयन समिति ने जून 2021 में पूर्व बिजली सचिव संजीव नंदन सहाय को इस पद के लिए चुना था। लेकिन नियुक्ति की पुष्टि कैबिनेट की नियुक्ति समिति (एससीसी) से नहीं हो सकी।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक एससीसी ने सीसीआई के चेयरमैन के लिए सिफारिश किए गए अभ्यर्थी को भी मंजूरी नहीं दी।

तेल मंत्रालय के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा, 'तेल व गैस क्षेत्र में सरकार के निकाय हमेशा प्रशासन या सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यम से रहे हैं। इसमें शीर्ष पद भरने को लेकर कठिनाई रही है।

चयन में खासकर इस पर ध्यान दिया जाता है कि व्यक्ति 2-3 दशक तक इस क्षेत्र में काम कर चुका हो और उसे इस क्षेत्र की चुनौतियों और हकीकतों की जानकारी हो। इसमें बड़ी संख्या नहीं आ पाती।'

पीएफआरडीए के प्रमुख सुप्रतिम बंधोपाध्याय 16 जनवरी, 2023 को सेवानिवृत्त हुए थे और नए चेयरमैन की नियुक्ति अब तक नहीं हो पाई है। कैबिनेट सचिव की अध्यक्षता में बनी वित्तीय क्षेत्र नियामक नियुक्ति तलाश समिति ने इस पद के लिए 3 नाम की सिफारिश की है, यह फाइल अभी कैबिनेट के पास लंबित है।

पीएनजीआरबी बोर्ड में चेयरमैन के अलावा 4 सदस्य होते हैं। इसमें भी पद नहीं भरे हैं। पीएफआरडीए में भी यही कहानी है, जिसके बोर्ड में पद रिक्त हैं। वहीं सीसीआई के 2 सदस्य जल्द सेवानिवृत्त होने वाले हैं, जिसके लिए पहले ही विज्ञापन जारी हो गया है।

(साथ में निकेश सिंह)

फरवरी में पेट्रोल-डीजल की बिक्री में जोरदार उछाल

नई दिल्ली। देश में ईंधन की मांग में फरवरी में काफी तेज उछाल देखने को मिला है। सर्दियों में 'ठंडी' रहने के बाद बीते माह पेट्रोल और डीजल की खपत में बढ़ोतरी दो अंक में रही है। उद्योग के बुधवार को जारी शुरुआती आंकड़ों से यह जानकारी मिली है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों की पेट्रोल की बिक्री फरवरी में 12 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 25.7 लाख टन हो गई। इससे पिछले साल के समान महीने में यह 22.9 लाख टन रही थी।

कोविड से प्रभावित 2021 के समान महीने की तुलना में पेट्रोल की बिक्री 1.57 प्रतिशत अधिक रही है। वहीं फरवरी, 2020 की तुलना में इसमें 20 प्रतिशत का इजाफा हुआ है। माह-दर-माह आधार पर पेट्रोल की मांग 13.5 प्रतिशत बढ़ी



है। इससे पिछले महीने पेट्रोल की मांग 5.1 प्रतिशत घटी थी। सबसे अधिक खपत वाले ईंधन डीजल की बिक्री फरवरी में 13 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 65.2 लाख टन पर पहुंच गई। फरवरी, 2021 की तुलना में डीजल की बिक्री 12.1 प्रतिशत तथा 2020 के समान महीने की तुलना में 7.7 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। मासिक आधार पर बात की जाए, तो जनवरी में डीजल की बिक्री 59.7 लाख टन रही थी। इस तरह मासिक आधार पर डीजल की मांग में 9.2 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई

है। जनवरी में बर्फबारी की वजह से पहाड़ी इलाकों में ट्रकों की आवाजाही प्रभावित हुई थी। इसके चलते मासिक आधार पर जनवरी में डीजल की बिक्री इससे पिछले महीने की तुलना में 8.6 प्रतिशत घटी थी।

उद्योग सूत्रों का कहना है कि ट्रकों के फिर सड़क पर लौटने और रबी बुवाई सत्र के रफ्तार पकड़ने के साथ डीजल की मांग में उछाल आया है। दिसंबर की तुलना में जनवरी में डीजल की बिक्री घटने की एक और वजह थी। दिसंबर में लोगों ने छुट्टियां मनाने के लिए यात्रा की थी, जिससे डीजल की मांग ऊंची रही थी। इसके साथ ही फरवरी में वाहन ईंधन एटीएफ की मांग सालाना आधार पर 41.3 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 5,74,200 टन पर पहुंच गई।

घरेलू रसोई गैस सिलेंडर 50 रुपए महंगा हुआ

नई दिल्ली। घरेलू रसोई गैस सिलेंडर के दाम एक बार फिर बढ़ गए हैं। एक मार्च से 14.2 किलो वाले घरेलू रसोई गैस सिलेंडर के दाम 50 रुपए बढ़ गए हैं। इस बढ़ोतरी के बाद दिल्ली में इसकी कीमत 1,103 रुपए हो गई है। गौरतलब है कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल और गैस की कीमतों में कमी आई है और रूस से भारत सस्ता तेल भी खरीद रहा है। इसके बाद भी कीमत कम होने की बजाय बढ़ रहे हैं।

बहरहाल, घरेलू रसोई गैस सिलेंडर के साथ साथ 19 किलो वाले कॉमर्शियल सिलेंडर के दाम में एक बार में 350.50 रुपए का इजाफा किया गया है। दिल्ली में ये अब इसकी कीमत 2,119.50 रुपए पहुंच गई है। इस साल कॉमर्शियल सिलेंडर की कीमतों में यह दूसरी बढ़ोतरी है। इससे पहले एक जनवरी को कीमतों में 25 रुपए का इजाफा किया गया था। घरेलू रसोई गैस सिलेंडर की कीमत में इससे पहले जुलाई 2022 में बढ़ोतरी हुई थी। पिछले एक साल में घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर की कीमतों में पांच बार बदलाव हुआ है। पिछले साल मार्च में सिलेंडर की कीमत 899.50 रुपए थी। 22 मार्च 2022 को सिलेंडर के दाम 50 रुपए बढ़ाए गए, जिसके बाद दिल्ली में इसकी कीमत 949.50 रुपए हो गई। इसके बाद तेल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों ने सात मई को फिर 50 रुपए कीमत बढ़ाई, जिससे ये 999.50 रुपए पर पहुंच गए। पिछले एक साल में पांच बार में कुल 203.50 रुपए प्रति सिलेंडर की बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

रसोई गैस सिलेंडर 50 रुपए महंगा, विमान ईंधन के दाम चार प्रतिशत घटे

नई दिल्ली, (विप्र)। रसोई गैस की कीमत में बुधवार को 50 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर की बढ़ोतरी की गई, जबकि विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमत में चार प्रतिशत की कटौती हुई। रसोई गैस की कीमतों में करीब आठ महीने बाद बढ़ोतरी हुई। यह वृद्धि पूर्वोत्तर के तीन राज्यों में विधानसभा चुनाव होने के बाद की गई है, जिसकी विपक्षी दलों ने कड़ी आलोचना की है। एक पेट्रोलियम विपणन कंपनी द्वारा जारी मूल्य अधिसूचना में कहा गया कि दिल्ली में एलपीजी या रसोई

गैस की कीमत को 1,053 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 1,103 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर (14.2 किलोग्राम) कर दिया गया है। यह जुलाई, 2022 के बाद पहली वृद्धि है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (आईओसी), भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एचपीसीएल) ने कहा कि 14.2 किलोग्राम के बिना सब्सिडी वाले एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत 1,103 रुपये है।

रसोई गैस सिलेंडर में महंगाई का धमाका

50	350.5
रुपए महंगा हुआ घरेलू सिलेंडर	रुपए बढ़े कमर्शियल सिलेंडर के दाम



नई दिल्ली, 1 मार्च (एजेंसी) : रसोई गैस की कीमत में बुधवार को 50 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर की बढ़ोतरी की गई, जबकि विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमत में चार प्रतिशत की कटौती हुई। रसोई गैस की कीमतों में करीब आठ महीने बाद बढ़ोतरी हुई। यह वृद्धि पूर्वोत्तर के तीन राज्यों में विधानसभा चुनाव होने के बाद की गई है, जिसकी विपक्षी दलों ने कड़ी आलोचना की है। एक पेट्रोलियम विपणन कंपनी द्वारा जारी मूल्य अधिसूचना में कहा गया कि दिल्ली में एलपीजी या रसोई गैस की कीमत को 1,053 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 1,103 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर (14.2 किलोग्राम) कर दिया गया है। यह जुलाई, 2022 के बाद पहली वृद्धि है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन (आईओसी), भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (एचपीसीएल) ने कहा कि 14.2 किलोग्राम के बिना सब्सिडी वाले एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत 1,103 रुपये है। सरकार ज्यादातर गैर-उज्ज्वला उपयोगकर्ताओं को कोई (शेष पृष्ठ 6 कालम 3 पर)

रसोई गैस सिलेंडर ...

सब्सिडी नहीं देती है। ताजा वृद्धि के साथ एलपीजी की कीमत अब मुंबई में 1,102.50 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर, कोलकाता में 1,129 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर और चेन्नई में 1,118.50 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर हो गई है।

प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत मुफ्त एलपीजी कनेक्शन पाने वाले 9.58 करोड़ गरीबों को सरकार 200 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर सब्सिडी देती है। उनके लिए प्रभावी कीमत 903 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर होगी।

इसी तरह वाणिज्यिक इस्तेमाल वाले गैस सिलेंडर की कीमत 350.5

रुपये बढ़ाकर 2,119.5 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर (19 किलोग्राम) कर दी गई है। वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी की दरों में आखिरी बार जनवरी में 25 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर की बढ़ोतरी की गई थी।

दूसरी ओर पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों ने विमान ईंधन की कीमत 4,606.50 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर घटाकर 1,07,750.27 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर कर दी है। विमान ईंधन की कीमत हर महीने की पहली तारीख को अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतों और विनिमय दर के आधार पर संशोधित की जाती है।

सर्दियों में 'ठंडी' रहने के बाद फरवरी में पेट्रोल की बिक्री में तेज उछाल

■ फरवरी में पेट्रोल की बिक्री 12% बढ़ी

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

देश में ईंधन की मांग में फरवरी में काफी तेज उछाल देखने को मिला है। सर्दियों में 'ठंडी' रहने के बाद बीते माह पेट्रोल और डीजल की खपत में बढ़ोतरी दो अंक में रही है। उद्योग के बुधवार को जारी शुरुआती आंकड़ों से यह जानकारी मिली है।

सार्वजनिक पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों की पेट्रोल की बिक्री फरवरी में 12 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 25.7 लाख टन हो गई। इससे पिछले साल के समान महीने में यह 22.9 लाख टन रही थी। कोविड से

प्रभावित 2021 के समान महीने की तुलना में पेट्रोल की बिक्री 1.57 प्रतिशत अधिक रही है। वहीं फरवरी, 2020 की तुलना में इसमें 20 प्रतिशत का इजाफा हुआ है। माह-दर-माह आधार पर पेट्रोल की मांग 13.5 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है।

इससे पिछले महीने पेट्रोल की मांग 5.1 प्रतिशत घटी थी। सबसे अधिक खपत वाले ईंधन डीजल की बिक्री फरवरी में 13 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 65.2 लाख टन पर पहुंच गई। फरवरी, 2021 की तुलना में डीजल की बिक्री 12.1 प्रतिशत तथा 2020 के समान महीने की तुलना में 7.7

■ डीजल की बिक्री में 13 फीसद वृद्धि

प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। मासिक आधार पर बात की जाए, तो जनवरी में डीजल की बिक्री 59.7 लाख टन रही थी। इस तरह मासिक आधार पर डीजल की मांग में 9.2 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। जनवरी में

बर्फबारी की वजह से पहाड़ी इलाकों में ट्रकों की आवाजाही प्रभावित हुई

थी। इसके चलते मासिक आधार पर जनवरी में डीजल की बिक्री इससे पिछले महीने की तुलना में 8.6 प्रतिशत घटी थी।

उद्योग सूत्रों का कहना है कि ट्रकों के फिर सड़क पर लौटने और

रबी बुवाई सत्र के रफ्तार पकड़ने के साथ डीजल की मांग में उछाल



■ एटीएफ की मांग में 41 फीसद वृद्धि

आया है। दिसम्बर की तुलना में जनवरी में डीजल की बिक्री घटने की एक और वजह थी। दिसम्बर में लोगों ने छुट्टियां मनाने के लिए यात्रा की थी, जिससे डीजल की मांग ऊंचो रही थी।

इसके साथ ही फरवरी में विमान ईंधन एटीएफ की मांग सालाना आधार पर 41.3 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 5,74,200 टन पर पहुंच गई। हालांकि, फरवरी, 2020 की तुलना में एटीएफ की बिक्री कम रही है। माह-दर-माह आधार पर एटीएफ की बिक्री 3.3 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। सूत्रों ने कहा कि घरेलू हवाई

यात्रा कोविड-पूर्व के स्तर पर पहुंच गई है। हालांकि, कुछ देशों में अंकुशों की वजह से अभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें पीछे हैं। फरवरी, 2023 में सालाना आधार पर रसोई गैस (एलपीजी) की बिक्री 2.43 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 25.3 लाख टन पर पहुंच गई।

फरवरी, 2021 की तुलना में एलपीजी की खपत 12 प्रतिशत और फरवरी, 2020 की तुलना में 22.2 प्रतिशत अधिक रही। मासिक आधार पर एलपीजी की मांग 6.14 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। जनवरी में एलपीजी की खपत 23.8 लाख टन रही थी।

सर्दियों में ठंडी रहने के बाद फरवरी में पेट्रोल, डीजल की बिक्री में जोरदार उछाल

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

देश में ईंधन की मांग में फरवरी में काफी तेज उछाल देखने को मिला है। सर्दियों में ठंडी रहने के बाद बीते माह पेट्रोल और डीजल की खपत में बढ़ोतरी दो अंक में रही है। उद्योग के बुधवार को जारी शुरुआती आंकड़ों से यह जानकारी मिली है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों की पेट्रोल की बिक्री फरवरी में 12 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 25.7 लाख टन हो गई। इससे पिछले साल के समान महीने में यह 22.9 लाख टन रही थी। कोविड से प्रभावित 2021 के समान महीने की तुलना में पेट्रोल की बिक्री 1.57 प्रतिशत अधिक रही है। वहीं फरवरी, 2020 की तुलना में इसमें 20 प्रतिशत का इजाफा हुआ है। माह-दर-माह आधार पर पेट्रोल की मांग 13.5 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। इससे पिछले महीने पेट्रोल की मांग 5.1 प्रतिशत घटी थी। सबसे अधिक खपत वाले ईंधन डीजल की बिक्री फरवरी में 13 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 65.2 लाख टन पर पहुंच गई। फरवरी, 2021 की तुलना में डीजल की बिक्री 12.1 प्रतिशत तथा 2020 के समान महीने की तुलना में 7.7 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। मासिक आधार पर बात की जाए, तो जनवरी में डीजल की बिक्री 59.7



लाख टन रही थी। इस तरह मासिक आधार पर डीजल की मांग में 9.2 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। जनवरी में बर्फबारी की वजह से पहाड़ी इलाकों में ट्रकों की आवाजाही प्रभावित हुई थी। उन्होंने बताया कि इसके चलते मासिक आधार पर जनवरी में डीजल की बिक्री इससे पिछले महीने की तुलना में 8.6 प्रतिशत घटी थी। उद्योग सूत्रों का कहना है कि ट्रकों के फिर सड़क पर लौटने और रबी बुवाई सत्र के रफ्तार पकड़ने के साथ डीजल की मांग में उछाल आया है। दिसंबर की तुलना में जनवरी में डीजल की बिक्री घटने की एक और वजह थी। दिसंबर में लोगों ने छुट्टियां मनाने के लिए यात्रा की थी, जिससे डीजल की मांग उंची रही थी। इसके साथ ही फरवरी में वाहन ईंधन एटीएफ की मांग सालाना आधार पर 41.3 प्र. बढ़कर

5,74,200 टन पर पहुंच गई। हालांकि, फरवरी, 2020 की तुलना में एटीएफ की बिक्री कम रही है। माह-दर-माह आधार पर एटीएफ की बिक्री 3.3 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। सूत्रों ने कहा कि घरेलू हवाई यात्रा कोविड-पूर्व के स्तर पर पहुंच गई है। हालांकि, कुछ देशों में अंकुशों की वजह से अभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें पीछे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि फरवरी, 2023 में सालाना आधार पर रसोई गैस (एलपीजी) की बिक्री 2.43 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 25.3 लाख टन पर पहुंच गई। फरवरी, 2021 की तुलना में एलपीजी की खपत 12 प्रतिशत और फरवरी, 2020 की तुलना में 22.2 प्रतिशत अधिक रही। मासिक आधार पर एलपीजी की मांग 6.14 प्रतिशत बढ़ी है। जनवरी में एलपीजी की खपत 23.8 लाख टन रही थी।

नवभारत

सिलेंडर ₹50 महंगा

आम आदमी की टूटेगी कमर

■ दिल्ली, एजेंसियां. मार्च की पहली तारीख को महंगाई का बड़ा झटका लगा है. तेल कंपनियों ने 14.2 किलोग्राम वाले घरेलू एलपीजी सिलेंडर के दाम 50 रुपये बढ़ा दिए हैं. जून 2020 से दिल्ली में इसकी कीमत 1103 रुपये हो गई है. पिछले साल 6 जुलाई को भी कीमत 50 रुपये बढ़ाई गई थी. उधर, 19 किलो वाले कॉमर्शियल सिलेंडर के दाम में 350.50 रुपये का इजाफा किया गया है. दिल्ली में ये अब 2119.50 रुपये का मिल रहा है. इस र्ष कॉमर्शियल सिलेंडर की कीमतों में यह दूसरी बढ़ोतरी है. 1 जनवरी को कीमतों में 25 रुपये का इजाफा किया गया था.

घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर की कीमतें

शहर	पुरानी दर	नई कीमत
दिल्ली	1053	1103
मुंबई	1052.50	1102.5
कोलकाता	1079	1129
चेन्नई	1068.50	1118.5

↑ 202.50 रुपये बढ़े दाम एक वर्ष में

कमर्शियल सिलेंडर की कीमतें			
दिल्ली	पुरानी दर	नई कीमत	मुंबई
₹ 50	22 मार्च 2022	1,769	2,119.5
₹ 2.50	19 मई 2022		
₹ 50	7 मई 2022		
₹ 50	6 जुलाई 2022	1,721	2,071.5
₹ 50	1 मार्च 2023	1,870	2,221.5
कोलकाता			
चेन्नई	पुरानी दर	नई कीमत	
		1,917	2,268

■ एलपीजी सिलेंडर पर जून 2020 से ज्यादातर लोगों को सब्सिडी नहीं मिल रही है. अब केवल उज्जवला योजना के तहत 200 रुपये की सब्सिडी मिलती है.

■ इसके लिए सरकार करीब 6,100 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करती है. दिल्ली में जून 2020 में बिना सब्सिडी वाला सिलेंडर 593 रुपये में मिलता था, जो अब बढ़कर 1103 रुपये का हो गया है.

विपक्ष तीसरे दिन भी आक्रामक

महाराष्ट्र बजट सत्र के तीसरे दिन बुधवार को विस में विपक्ष के नेता अजीत पवार एवं विप में विपक्ष के नेता अंबादास दानवे के नेतृत्व में विधायकों ने बिजली एवं गैस सिलेंडर के दाम बढ़ाए जाने को लेकर विधान भवन की सीढ़ी पर प्रदर्शन किया. सिलेंडर के दाम बढ़ाने वाली, किसान विरोधी सरकार का धिक्कार, किसानों का बिजली कनेक्शन काटने वाली सरकार का निषेध हो, किसानों को 12 घंटे बिजली दो, नहीं तो कुर्सी खाली करो जैसे नारे लगाए.

