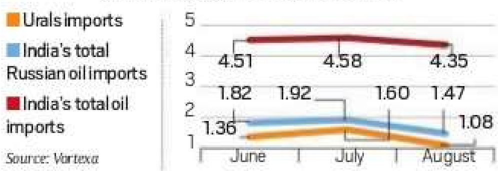
INDIAN EXPRESS, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 15, Size:(12.50)cms X (10.74)cms.

India's Russian oil imports slump in August as Urals lose some sheen

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

RUSSIAN OIL LOSING STEAM

Import volumes *(in million barrels per day)*



WITH DISCOUNTS on Russia's flagship crude Urals having narrowed considerably in recent weeks coupled with lower oil purchases by Indian refiners due to maintenance shutdowns at some units, India's import volumes of the medium-sour crude declined by nearly a third on a month-on-month (MoM) basis in August. This, in turn, resulted in New Delhi's overall Russian oil imports falling to a seven-month low, shows an analysis of data shared by energy cargo tracker Vortexa.

Import volumes of Urals — the mainstay of India's Russian oil import basket — declined to 1.08 million bpd (barrels per day) from 1.60 million bpd in July. Even Urals import volumes were at a seven-month low in August. India's total Russian oil imports fell 23.4 per cent month-on-month in August to 1.47 million barrels per day (bpd). Barring January, when cumulative Russian oil imports of Indian refiners stood at 1.27 million bpd, August volumes were the lowest this year.

While Russia maintained its position as India's top source of crude oil in August, its share in the country's overall oil imports declined to 33.8 per cent during the month, down from a share of over 40 per cent seen over the previous three months. In August, India imported a total of 4.35 million bpd of crude, which was down 5 per cent MoM, according to Vortexa. Meanwhile, oil imports from Saudi Arabia — traditionally a major oil supplier to India — jumped nearly 70 per cent MoM to 820,000 bpd during the month.

"India's imports of Russian crude have fallen by over 20% month-on-month in August, driven by lower exports from Russia. Russian Urals discounts to dated Brent have narrowed with lower supplies in the market, which have likely dampened India's appetite for the crude compared to the past few months," said Serena Huang, head of Asia-Pacific analysis at Vortexa.

In July, the price of Urals as per international assessments breached the $60-per-barrel cap imposed by G7 countries and the discounts being offered by Russian oil exporters have eroded substantially. This appears to have negatively impacted India-Russia oil trade, which has been booming since Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Industry watchers expect Russia's crude oil exports to remain subdued over the next few months, unless Moscow plans to reverse its production and export curbs, which are part of a larger coordinated action by the world's major oil producers to support oil prices, and deepen discounts on its crude vis-à-vis global benchmarks and comparable West Asian crudes.

Russia began offering deep discounts on its oil exports as major Western economies started weaning themselves off Moscow's crude. Indian refiners lapped up the opportunity, snapping up the discounted barrels in huge quantities, resulting in Russia emerging as India's largest source of crude. Prior to the war in Ukraine, Russian oil had a share of less than 2 per cent in India's oil import pie.

According to industry insiders, while India's Russian oil imports could decline further due to a combination of reduced exports from Moscow and erosion of discounts on Russian crude, there are ways to prevent a significant slide in volumes. That, however, would require Indian refiners as well as Russian oil exporters to work closely and show some flexibility on discounts as well as payment terms.

Sources in the Indian government have already indicated that public sector refiners are looking to increase oil purchases from their traditional West Asian suppliers of crude oil, given the significant erosion in discounts offered by Russia on its oil and the likelihood of payment-related complications if Urals is to be bought at over $60 per barrel on a regular basis.

FULL REPORT ON
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ATF PRICE HIKED BY 14%, STEEPEST EVER

New Delhi: Jet fuel price was hiked Friday for the third straight time by 14% — the steepest-ever increase. Commercial cooking gas rate was cut by ₹157.5 per cylinder. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by ₹13,911.07 per kilolitre in the national capital to ₹1,12,419.33 per kl. **PTI**

WINDFALL TAX CUT

THE UNION government will cut the windfall tax on petroleum crude to ₹6,700 rupees per metric ton from ₹7,100 starting Saturday, according to a notification Friday. The government will raise the windfall tax on diesel exports to ₹6 per litre from ₹5.50, the notification said. The levy on jet fuel exports will double to ₹4 per litre. **AGENCIES**

TIMES OF INDIA, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 23, Size:(3.84)cms X (11.47)cms.

Petrol, diesel sales near 10-mth low

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Diesel sales continued to dip in August from a year ago as heavy rains and flooding in many parts of the country disrupted mobility, mining and farm activities. Petrol consumption, too, barely managed to hold steady on record automobile despatches from manufacturers.

Preliminary industry data showed diesel demand falling 2.9% and petrol consumption nearly flat with a growth of 0.4% from the year-ago period. Sequentially, demand for diesel recorded a sharper drop at 3.7% but petrol sales rose 3.4% over July. Fuel consumption has slipped to near 10-month low.

In contrast, jet fuel sales grew 9.5% compared to August 2022, but sequentially the growth was marginal at 1% over July. Consumption of LPG, used mostly as a household cooking fuel, grew at 4.4% from a year ago and sequentially posted a jump of 5.1% over July.

Demand for Diesel Drops 2.9%, Petrol Sales Rise 0.4% in Aug

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Consumption of diesel dropped 2.9% and that of petrol rose 0.4% in August over last year, according to the state oil companies' data.

The demand for aviation turbine fuel (ATF) rose 9.5% year-on-year in August while that for LPG rose 4.4%.

Compared to August 2019, the ATF sales are still 3.2% lower while those of petrol and diesel are up 21.2% and 8.4% respectively. Over the last few months, state oil companies' petrol and diesel sales have been under pressure from the rising competition from private fuel retailers who had cut their retail sales last year after government-controlled retailers started selling fuel at below-market rates. Private players have again boosted their presence in the market this year to benefit from the extraordinarily high margins that fuel retailing currently offers. Rains, industrial activity and the larger state of the economy also influence the sales of transportation fuels.

Demand for ATF rises 9.5% year-on-year in Aug while that of LPG was 4.4%

Sales of petrol have risen 3.4% month-on-month in August while those of diesel have dropped 3.7%. Diesel, which has a wide range of applications from goods transport to mining and farming, accounts for nearly 40% of the country's oil demand.

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(7.87)cms X (9.47)cms.

Govt Cuts Windfall Tax on Domestic Crude, Hikes Duty on Diesel, ATF

New Delhi: The Centre has reduced windfall gain tax on domestically produced crude oil marginally to ₹6,700 per tonne from ₹7,100 per tonne.

The export duty on diesel is increased to ₹6 per litre from earlier ₹5.50 per litre. The government also increased duty on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to ₹4 per litre from the earlier ₹2 litre.

The duty on petro exports will continue to be nil.

The new duty will be effective from September 2, a notification issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said.

The Centre on August 14 had revised windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to ₹7,100 per tonne from ₹4,250 per tonne. On July 1, 2022 the government imposed an export duty of ₹6 per litre on petrol and ATF and a ₹13 per litre duty on export of diesel. A windfall tax of ₹23,250 per tonne was imposed on the sale of domestic crude. Since then, the Centre has been reviewing the levies every fortnight or so based on global crude oil prices.

HIKE IN LPG PRICE

The price of commercial LPG, used in establishments such as hotels and restaurants, was reduced by ₹157.50 per cylinder. A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder now costs ₹1,522.50 in the national capital. The reduction comes on the back of a ₹100 per cylinder cut effected from August 1. — **Our Bureau**

Oil import from Russia falls as Saudi Arabia regains share

MANISH GUPTA
New Delhi, September 1

INDIA'S IMPORT OF Russian oil fell to the lowest in six months at 1.47 million barrels a day (mbd) in August as Russia cut down oil exports, paving way for Saudi Arabia to regain its share in Indian crude basket by exporting 820,000 barrels a day during the month.

According to energy cargo tracker Vortexa, Russian oil import fell 24% in August from the high of 1.93 mbd reported in May, the highest since Russia invaded Ukraine and western sanctions led Russia to offer discounts to oil importers in India and China.

Iraq and Saudi Arabia after a long time have jointly exported more crude than Russia in August. From zero oil exports at the start of Ukraine crisis in February 2022, Russia had been exporting more than both the traditional exporters combined since April this year.

While Russia still remains the largest crude supplier to Indian refineries with 34% share, Saudi Arabia nearly doubled its share from 10.6% in July to 18.9% in August. Iraq, too, saw a marginal increase in its share, from 19.5% in July to 19.9% in August, despite a fall in exports from 891,000 barrels a day in July to 866,000 barrels a day in August.

The total crude oil import by India fell 5% month-on-month to 4.35 mbd in August as Indian refiners scheduled their routine maintenance works. Analysts believe oil imports by India will pick up from October as demand for petroleum products will increase.

India, which is the world's third-largest oil consumer, depends on imports for 85% of its needs. Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri has maintained that India has a duty towards its citizens to provide affordable fuel, and hence will import oil from the cheapest source. "We are very clear in our minds that we will buy oil from wherever we can get it as long as it is delivered to our point of importation at our ports at the lowest possible price," he said in a television interview on Wednesday. He also said that it's not the government but refiners who decide where to source their oil imports from.

Russia had announced 500,000-barrel-a-day reduction in exports in August as part of efforts by the OPEC+ group to support oil prices amid global economic weakness. Russia has extended its export curbs into September and is considering about October.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia continues its crude production cut by one mbd for September.

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 10, Size:(10.20)cms X (13.45)cms.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ONGC, Oil India rally up to 6% after govt hikes natural gas price

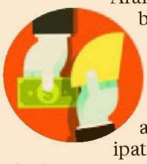
Shares of state-owned oil exploration & production companies, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India, surged up to 6 per cent on the BSE during Friday's intraday trade after the government hiked price of domestic natural gas to $8.6 per metric million British thermal units (MMBtu). The new price, scheduled to take effect from September1, marks an increase from the current price of $7.85 MMBtu. Rating agency Fitch, moreover, affirmed ONGC's rating at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook. Fitch expected ONGC's upstream earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization over FY24-FY27 to improve, driven by increase in oil price assumptions, given lower uncertainty on demand destruction related to energy transition risks. BS REPORTER

Saudi Aramco looks to sell shares worth $50 billion

REUTERS
1 September

Saudi Aramco is considering selling a stake worth as much as $50 billion through a secondary share offering on the Riyadh bourse after consultations with advisers, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday.

The sale could happen before the end of the year, the report said, adding that Aramco has been "sounding out" potential investors, about participating in the deal.



The Kingdom has decided to host any new Aramco offering on the Riyadh exchange to avoid legal risks associated with an international listing, the report said, citing Saudi officials and other people familiar with the plan. Saudi Aramco did not respond to a *Reuters'* request for comment.

Saudi Aramco is the world's biggest oil company, with a market value of $2.25 trillion. Its shares have risen 19.6 per cent this year. It completed the world's largest initial public offering in late 2019, raising $25.6 billion and later selling more shares to raise the total to $29.4 billion.

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 6, Size:(13.73)cms X (21.01)cms.

Dependence on Russian oil will fall sharply: Puri

India's splurge on cheap Russian crude may be over, as New Delhi's traditional suppliers in the West Asia step back in with attractive conditions.

"Our dependence on Russian oil is going to decrease sharply," Oil Minister Hardeep Puri said in an interview. "The cost viability from the Gulf is much more attractive now."

India's consumption of Russian crude has soared since President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine in February last year, ousting Saudi Arabia and Iraq from the top spots. From negligible levels, it soared to account for nearly half of supplies in May. However, rising prices have squeezed the discount on Russian crude and limited the attractiveness of those spot purchases, making other sources, some with term contracts, appealing once again. Moscow has also said this week it plans to extend export curbs.

In August, imports from Russia fell for the third consecutive month to 1.57 million barrels a day, according to data-intelligence firm Kpler, down 24 per cent on the month and at the lowest since January — though Russia remains India's top supplier. "I am very clear. We are in the market today, and we will buy from whomever," Puri said. **BLOOMBERG**

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 2, Size:(26.14)cms X (30.04)cms.

L&T to chart strategy detour in green hydrogen journey

Firm to target build-own-operate opportunities, a shift from 'asset-light' policy

AMRITHA PILLAY
Mumbai, 1 September

ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

Engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) will explore green hydrogen prospects in India under the asset ownership model, officials said, a detour from its policy of staying asset-light.

For its entry in the green hydrogen segment, L&T has diverted from its usual strategy on two counts. One, it has opted for an asset ownership and operatorship model and second, it has decided to house all its green energy interests under a subsidiary. Company executives said, the JV was aimed at addressing build-own-operate prospects and the subsidiary model will allow the scope for financial partners at a later stage, if needed.

Last week, L&T formed a joint venture (JV) company named GH4India Private Limited, along with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Renew, with an interest of 33.33 per cent each.

In its announcement, L&T said the JV is for the development of green hydrogen and its derivatives, production assets and associated renewable assets through any model of ownership and operatorship. L&T looks to sell green hydrogen and not just the equipment related to its manufacturing.

Derek M Shah, senior vice president and head, L&T Energy – green manufacturing and development, at L&T said: "L&T maintains its strategy of pursuing an asset-light approach."

"We also recognise the opportunities that exist in the energy transition journey. Green hydrogen is indeed one of the emerging opportunity areas for us to leverage our leadership position in the energy sector and expertise in manufacturing and EPC projects," Shah explained.

GH4India will allow the company to address Build Own Operate (BOO) prospects in green hydrogen & derivatives space, "in a manner that does not return dilutive to L&T," he said.

Top executives from L&T have earlier said the three partners combined will look to invest close to $3-4 billion over the next three to five years.

CHANGING TACK

- To adopt asset ownership and operatorship model
- Seeks build-own-operate opportunities
- To house electrolyser business under SPV model

L&T moved to an asset light model more than a decade back, after investments under the asset ownership model in different infrastructure projects, yielded mixed results.

In 2014, L&T, along with Tata Steel, exited from the ownership of Dhamra port in Odisha, through a sale to Adani Ports and SEZ. Last financial year, L&T announced full exit from its road portfolio joint venture L&T Infrastructure Development Projects (IDPL).

As a solo venture, L&T is also building an electrolyser manufacturing facility in Hazira, Gujarat.

In July, L&T said its subsidiary L&T Energy Green Tech will act as a holding company, for creating a focused entity structure that will house multiple business portfolios of green energy, including electrolyser manufacturing.

This is a detour from L&T's preferred model of creating business divisions for engineering, procurement and construction opportunities in different segments.

BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 9, Size:(12.71)cms X (10.90)cms.

Private importers not to pay agri cess on LPG, propane, butane

SPREADING CHEER. 'Nil' duty kicks in from Sept 1; maximum impact seen in auto LPG price

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

After cutting down the cost price of LPG for PSUs, the government has provided some relief for private LPG marketers – technically known as Parallel Marketers – as the Finance Ministry has exempted import of LPG, liquified propane and liquified butane from the Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess (AIDC). This is expected to have a major impact on the price of auto LPG.

The nil duty will be effective from September 1, a Finance Ministry notification said. It may be noted that Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is a blend of light hydrocarbon compounds. It mainly consists of butane or propane or a mixture of both.

The move has come days after the government cut the cost price of domestic LPG cylinder sold by OMCs. Following the cut, the price has come down to around ₹900 and ₹700 for non Ujjawala and Ujjawla consumers.

RELIEF FOR ALL. The move comes days after the government cut the cost price of domestic LPG cylinder sold by PSU OMCs

According to Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Oil Ministry, basic customs duty is nil for import of domestic LPG sold to household consumers (including non-domestic exempted category) by PSU OMCs. However, for private importers, the casic customs duty rate is 5 per cent and the AIDC 15 per cent. The levy is similar in case of butane and propane. With the new notification, the basic custom duty will stay for private importers. Also, there is no change in the countervailing duty imposed in lieu of IGST, which is 18 per cent for private importers (5 per cent for PSU OMCs).

DETERMINED RATES

LPG marketing in India is carried out by public sector oil marketing companies (i.e. IOCL, BPCL and HPCL) as well as by private parties under the Parallel Marketing System (PMS). Under PMS, private parties can import LPG and sell it at market determined rates.

As per information received by the PPAC from 104 parallel marketeers, they had sold 136.3 TMT during the month of March and 1577.0 TMT during the period April 2022–March 2023. This amounts to a market share of 5.1 per cent for PMs in total LPG sales. Out of the total LPG sold in the country, 82.8 per cent was in the domestic segment, 15.9 per cent was in the commercial/bulk segment and the balance 1.3 per cent was in the automotive segment. The market share of PMS was around 0.9 per cent in the domestic segment, 21.6 per cent in the commercial/bulk segment and 72.5 per cent in the automotive segment during April 2022–March 2023.

BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 0, Size:(6.23)cms X (13.56)cms.

Crude oil imports fall 5% to 4.35 m barrels/day in Aug

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

India's crude oil imports fell by 5 per cent M-o-M to 4.35 million barrels per day (mb/d) during August, which is the lowest in volume terms so far in the current financial year.

The decline in imports was largely led by contracting cargoes from Russia, which is at its lowest levels since January 2023, according to data from the energy intelligence firm Vortexa.

The decline during August was due to narrowing discounts on the Urals grade and smaller appetite from Indian refiners due to planned autumn maintenance at some refineries, and lower domestic demand on account of the rainy season till September.

Urals shipments from Russia to India in August slipped to its lowest levels since January this year at 1.08 mb/d after an all- time high import of around 1.6 mb/d in July of the medium sour grade, which was higher by 18 per cent compared to June and 14 per cent higher than the previous record in May 2023.

IMPORT DYNAMICS

Overall, the PSU refiners, led by Indian Oil Corporation, cumulatively imported 852,000 barrels per day (b/d) followed by 617,000 b/d by private refiners Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy.

Vortexa's Head of APAC Analysis, Serena Huang told *businessline* that from an import perspective, India received 1.469 mb/d of Russian crude in August.

RUSSIAN IMPORTS

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in its latest monthly oil market report had said that imports from Russia may have topped out in May.

"Looking ahead, India's crude imports from Russia potentially topped out in May, declining in June and July. Total crude inflows in July are seen lower with the start of refinery turnarounds," OPEC said in its monthly oil market report.

India's crude imports declined M-o-M for the fourth month in a row to an average of 4.68 mb/d in June 2023, the report pointed out.

Government raises natural gas prices to $8.60/mmBtu

Staff writer
feedback@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

The ministry of petroleum and natural gas has raised the price of natural gas for September to $8.60/mmBtu (metric million British thermal unit), up from $7.85 in August.

However, the price for gas from ONGC's and OIL's nomination gas fields is unchanged capped at $6.5 per mmBtu.

"The price of domestic natural gas for the 1-30 September period is notified at $8.60 per mmBtu on gross calorific value basis," according to the notification dated 31 August.

Since April, domestic natural gas prices have been linked to the India crude oil basket and are adjusted monthly.

Nomination fields are areas the government granted to state-run ONGC and Oil India before 1999, when auctions became the basis for awarding oil and gas blocks. Gas from these fields is capped at $6.5 an mmBtu.. Given that majority of the country's gas production comes from these legacy or nomination fields, consumers are not likely to be affected by the latest price increase.

Considering that the city gas distribution (CGD) sector, the largest consumer of natural gas, including piped natural gas, and compressed natural gas), receives top priority in gas procurement from nominated fields, this price increase could have an impact on sectors such as fertilizers and gas-based power plants.


The hike may impact fertilizers and power sectors. BLOOMBERG

The price of domestic natural gas has been linked to the India crude oil basket since April and is changed monthly

This hike is due to a rise in global crude oil prices following supply concerns. At the time of writing, November Brent contract closed at $87.86 per barrel, up 1.19% from its previous close.

The average price of Indian crude basket, which serves as the basis for natural gas prices, rose 7.54% in August, reaching $86.43 a barrel. Recessionary concerns, sluggish recovery in China and OPEC+ output cut may keep prices elevated, said Prashant Vashisht, vice-president, corporate ratings, ICRA.

नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, हाइड्रोजन क्षेत्र में नई संभावनाएं तलाशने को एनटीपीसी, ऑयल इंडिया में करार

नई दिल्ली, भाषा। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की एनटीपीसी और ऑयल इंडिया ने नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, हरित हाइड्रोजन के उत्पादन की संभावनाएं तलाशने के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। एनटीपीसी ने बयान में कहा कि इस एमओयू के अंतर्गत भूतापीय और कार्बन उत्सर्जन में कमी से जुड़ी अन्य मुहिमों को भी आगे बढ़ाया जाएगा। एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर एनटीपीसी के चेयरमैन एवं प्रबंध निदेशक (सीएमडी) गुरदीप सिंह और ऑयल इंडिया के सीएमडी रंजीत रथ की उपस्थिति में बृहस्पतिवार को किए गए। कंपनी ने कहा, "समझौता ज्ञापन नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, हरित हाइड्रोजन और उससे बनने वाले उत्पाद, भूतापीय और कार्बन उत्सर्जन में कमी लाने के उपायों जैसे क्षेत्रों में सहयोग की संभावनाएं तलाशने के लिए है...।'' एनटीपीसी का लक्ष्य 2032 तक 60 गीगावाट नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता स्थापित करना और हरित हाइड्रोजन प्रौद्योगिकी तथा ऊर्जा भंडारण क्षेत्र में प्रमुख बनना है।

RASHTRIYA SAHARA, Delhi, 2.9.2023

Page No. 13, Size:(2.10)cms X (3.33)cms.

सरकार ने एलपीजी आयात को कृषि उपकर से दी छूट

नई दिल्ली। सरकार ने रसोई गैस सिलेंडर (एलपीजी), तरलीकृत प्रोपेन और तरलीकृत ब्यूटेन के आयात पर लगाया गया 15 प्रतिशत कृषि उपकर शुक्रवार से हटा दिया है। सरकार ने जुलाई में इन वस्तुओं के आयात पर 15 प्रतिशत कृषि उपकर लगाया था। वित्त मंत्रालय की ओर से जारी एक अधिसूचना के अनुसार, रसोई गैस, तरलीकृत प्रोपेन और तरलीकृत ब्यूटेन के आयात को एक सितंबर से प्रभावी कृषि अवसंरचना विकास उपकर से पूरी तरह छूट दे दी गई है।

NAVODYA TIMES, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 14, Size:(21.87)cms X (30.94)cms.

घरेलू के बाद कमर्शियल सिलेंडर भी हुआ सस्ता

नई दिल्ली, 1 सितम्बर (एजेंसी): घरेलू एल.पी.जी. सिलेंडर के बाद सरकार ने कमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर भी सस्ता कर दिया है। 19 किलो वाले एल.पी.जी. सिलेंडर की कीमत में 158 रुपए की कटौती की गई है।

इसके बाद दिल्ली में इस सिलेंडर की कीमत 1522 रुपए रह गई है। ऑयल मार्कीटिंग कंपनियों के मुताबिक नए रेट आज से यानी 1 सितम्बर से लागू हो गए हैं।

सरकार ने एल.पी.जी. आयात को कृषि उपकर से दी छूट

सरकार ने रसोई गैस सिलेंडर (एल.पी.जी.), तरलीकृत प्रोपेन और तरलीकृत ब्यूटेन के आयात पर लगाया गया 15 प्रतिशत कृषि उपकर शुक्रवार से हटा दिया है। सरकार ने जुलाई में इन वस्तुओं के आयात पर 15 प्रतिशत कृषि उपकर लगाया था। वित्त मंत्रालय की ओर से जारी एक अधिसूचना के अनुसार रसोई गैस, तरलीकृत प्रोपेन और तरलीकृत ब्यूटेन के आयात को 1 सितम्बर से प्रभावी कृषि अवसंरचना विकास उपकर (ए.आई.डी.सी.) से पूरी तरह छूट दे दी गई है।

विमान ईंधन 14 प्रतिशत हुआ महंगा

विमान ईंधन या ए.टी.एफ. की कीमत में शुक्रवार को 14 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी की गई। इस तरह लगातार तीसरी बार विमान ईंधन के दाम बढ़ाए गए हैं। दूसरी ओर होटल और रेस्तरां जैसे प्रतिष्ठानों में इस्तेमाल होने वाले वाणिज्यिक एल.पी.जी. की कीमत 157.50 रुपए प्रति सिलेंडर कम की गई है। दिल्ली में 19 किलोग्राम वाले एक वाणिज्य सिलेंडर की कीमत अब 1,522.50 रुपए है। सरकारी ईंधन खुदरा कंपनियों की मूल्य अधिसूचना के अनुसार दिल्ली में विमान टरबाइन ईंधन (ए.टी.एफ.) की कीमत प्रति किलोलीटर 13,911.07 रुपए या 14 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 1,12,419.33 रुपए प्रति किलोलीटर हो गई है।

इसकी कीमतें विभिन्न राज्यों में स्थानीय बिक्री कर या मूल्य वर्द्धित कर (वैट) के आधार पर अलग-अलग होती हैं। तेल की वैश्विक कीमतों में वृद्धि के कारण विमान ईंधन महंगा हुआ है। इससे पहले एक अगस्त और एक जुलाई को भी कीमत में वृद्धि की गई थी।

HINDUSTAN, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 11, Size:(2.88)cms X (6.32)cms.

वाणिज्यिक सिलेंडर ₹157.50 सस्ता

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। होटल और रेस्तरां जैसे प्रतिष्ठानों में इस्तेमाल होने वाले वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी की कीमत 157.50 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर कम की गई है। दिल्ली में 19 किलोग्राम वाले एक वाणिज्य सिलेंडर की कीमत अब 1,522.50 रुपये है।

दूसरी ओर, विमान ईंधन या एटीएफ की कीमत में शुक्रवार को 14 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी की गई। इस तरह लगातार तीसरी बार विमान ईंधन के दाम बढ़ाए गए हैं। अधिसूचना के अनुसार, दिल्ली में विमान टरबाइन ईंधन की कीमत प्रति किलोलीटर 13,911.07 रुपये या 14 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 1,12,419.33 रुपये प्रति किलोलीटर हो गई है।

कमर्शियल सिलेंडर के दाम में कटौती

19 किलो वाला सिलेंडर अब 158 रुपए सस्ता

एजेंसी ▸▸ नई दिल्ली

रसोई गैस के बाद अब सरकार ने कमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर के दाम में कटौती की है। नई कीमत शुक्रवार से लागू हो चुकी है। कमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर की कीमत में 1 सितंबर 2023 से बड़ी कटौती हुई। 19 किलोग्राम कमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर की कीमत में 158 रुपए की कमी की गई है। वहीं कुछ दिन पहले रसोई गैस की कीमत में 200 रुपए की कटौती की गई थी। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों (ओएमसी) के मुताबिक, अब एलपीजी उपभोक्ताओं को 19 किलोग्राम कमर्शियल एलपीजी गैस सिलेंडर की कीमत के लिए नई दिल्ली में 1,522 रुपए देने होंगे। वहीं कोलकाता में 19 ▸▸ शेष पेज 3 पर

19 किलो वाला...

किलो एलपीजी गैस की कीमत 1636 रुपए मुंबई में कमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर प्राइस 1482 रुपए और चेन्नई में एलपीजी 19 किलो गैस सिलेंडर की कीमत 1695 रुपए हो चुकी है। गौरतलब है कि सरकार ने महिलाओं को तोहफा देते हुए रक्षाबंधन से एक दिन पहले घरेलू गैस की कीमत में 200 रुपए की कटौती की गई थी। वहीं प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के लाभार्थियों के लिए इसकी कीमत में 400 रुपए प्रति सिलेंडर की कटौती की गई थी।

घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर प्राइजः

- नई दिल्ली में रसोई गैस सिलेंडर की कीमत 903 रुपए
- कोलकाता में 14.2 किलो सिलेंडर 929 रुपए में बिक रहा
- मुंबई में रसोई गैस की कीमत 902.50 रुपए प्रति सिलेंडर हैm
- चेन्नई में घरेलू गैस की कीमत 918.50 रुपए है

HINDUSTAN, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(9.87)cms X (6.96)cms.

तोहफा है रसोई गैस की कीमत में कटौती

केंद्र सरकार ने त्योहारों के मौसम से पहले घरेलू रसोई गैस सिलेंडर की कीमत में 200 रुपये और उज्ज्वला लाभार्थियों के लिए 200 रुपये की सब्सिडी के साथ 400 रुपये की कमी करके लोगों को काफी राहत दी है। इससे उन पर महंगाई का बोझ कुछ कम होगा, क्योंकि रसोई गैस की कीमत पिछले कुछ समय से बढ़ती ही जा रही थी और विपक्ष इसे स्वाभाविक ही राजनीतिक चश्मे से देख रहा है, लेकिन आम लोगों के नजरिये से इस फैसले को देखें, तो इसका दूरगामी असर पड़ना तय है। दरअसल, रसोई गैस की कीमतों में नियमित अंतराल पर हो रही बढ़ोतरी से मध्यवर्गीय परिवार खासा परेशान थे। महंगाई ने उनकी रसोई का बजट बिगाड़ दिया था। इससे भी बुरा हाल उज्ज्वला लाभार्थियों का था। केंद्र सरकार ने महिलाओं की सेहत की चिंता करते हुए गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले परिवारों के लिए रसोई गैस की व्यवस्था की थी। मगर इसकी कीमत बढ़ने से वे परिवार भी पारंपरिक चूल्हे की ओर लौटने लगे थे, यानी 21वीं सदी में भी गांव में कुछ लोगों को खाना पकाने के लिए लकड़ी व गोबर के उपले से जलने वाले चूल्हे का इस्तेमाल करना पड़ रहा था। यह उस परिवार की महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य के लिए काफी खतरनाक स्थिति मानी जा रही थी, क्योंकि इन चूल्हों से निकलने वाला धुआं खाने पकाने वालों पर बुरा असर डालता है। वर्ष 2010 में प्रकाशित 'ग्लोबल बर्डन ऑफ डिजीज' में बताया गया था कि हमारे देश में घरेलू वायु प्रदूषण दूसरा सबसे बड़ा जानलेवा कारण है। चूंकि कई राज्यों में रसोई गैस की कीमत 1,000 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर से अधिक हो चुकी थी, और सब्सिडी भी ऊंट के मुंह में जीरे के समान थी, इसलिए सरकार के इस कदम की तारीफ हो रही है।

रसोई गैस रोजमर्रा में उपयोग होने वाली जरूरत है। माना कि सरकार को इन सुविधाओं को आम जन तक उचित मूल्य पर उपलब्ध कराना चाहिए, फिर चाहे उसे भारी खर्च क्यों न वहन करना पड़े, लेकिन सरकार की भी अपनी मजबूरी होती है। हां, अपने वोट बैंक को ध्यान में रखकर वह जो सुविधाएं चंद लोगों को मुहैया कराती है, उससे उसे बचना चाहिए, क्योंकि महंगाई बढ़ने की एक वजह यह मुफ्त की रेवड़ी भी है। इस मामले में सरकार को कुंभकर्णी नींद से जागना चाहिए और व्यावहारिक नीति अमल में लानी चाहिए, ताकि देश के हर तबके को उचित फायदा मिले और देश के नागरिक सुगम तरीके से अपना जीवन गुजार सकें।

राजेश कुमार चौहान, टिप्पणीकार

चुनावी सफलता के लिए ऐसा किया गया

केंद्र की एनडीए सरकार ने रसोई गैस की कीमतों में अचानक कटौती कर दी, लेकिन ऐसा अभी ही क्यों किया गया, यह आप पूछ सकते हैं। दरअसल, यह किस्सा है 'कुरसी' का। कर्नाटक विधानसभा चुनाव में भारतीय जनता पार्टी को बड़ी हार का सामना करना पड़ा, जहां घरेलू रसोई गैस के ऊंचे दाम चुनाव के मुख्य मुद्दों में से एक थे। इतना ही नहीं, दो महीनों में 'इंडिया' की दो बेहद सफल बैठकें हो चुकी हैं, और तीसरी का भी कल सुखद समापन हुआ। फिर, कर्नाटक में कांग्रेस सरकार ने 100 दिनों में अपनी पांच गारंटी लागू कर दी है। राजस्थान में कांग्रेस सरकार 500 रुपये में रसोई गैस सिलेंडर दे रही है। लोगों का शानदार रिस्पांस मिल रहा है, क्योंकि वे भाजपा के कुशासन से परेशान थे। पांच राज्यों के विधानसभा चुनावों से तीन महीने पहले, जहां केंद्र की सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी की हालत पतली नजर आ रही है और लोकसभा चुनाव से छह महीने पहले वह वास्तव में तिनके का सहारा ढूंढ़ रही है। आने वाले महीनों में ऐसे और 'गिफ्ट्स' की उम्मीद है, क्योंकि सरकार अपनी कुरसी से चिपके रहने के लिए और अधिक बेचैन दिख रही है।

सच्चिदानंद पाण्डेय, राजनेता

आईना दिखाना होगा

ऐसी अटकलें लगाई जा रही हैं कि विपक्षी दलों के महाजुटान 'इंडिया' के प्रति बढ़ते आकर्षण के डर से सरकार दिसंबर में ही लोकसभा चुनाव करा सकती है। सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी का डर इतना बढ़ता जा रहा है कि मुंबई में 'इंडिया' की तीसरी बैठक से ठीक पहले रसोई गैस के दाम में 200 रुपये की कटौती कर दी गई। उज्ज्वला योजना के लाभार्थियों को तो 400 रुपये का लाभ मिला है। यह डर अच्छा है। इससे तो यही लगता है कि आने वाले दिनों में पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम भी घट सकते हैं। सर्वे यही बता रहे हैं कि भारतीय जनता पार्टी की लोकप्रियता का ग्राफ गिरता जा रहा है और यही हाल रहा, तो 2024 का चुनाव उसके लिए जीतना मुश्किल हो जाएगा। अभी तो मध्य प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़, राजस्थान जैसे बड़े राज्यों में विधानसभा चुनाव भी होने वाले हैं, और यहां भी आंतरिक सर्वे व जनता का मूड केंद्र की सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी के लिए सुखद नहीं है। अगर भाजपा को इन राज्यों में सफलता नहीं मिली, तो क्या वह 2024 के आम चुनाव में अपने लिए उम्मीद देख सकेगी? इसीलिए, समय-पूर्व चुनाव का दांव भी खेला जा सकता है। ऐसे में तो यही कहना उचित होगा कि यदि रसोई गैस, पेट्रोल, डीजल आदि के दाम घटाने हों, तो भाजपा को आईना दिखाते रहना होगा।

विनोद कुमार, टिप्पणीकार

VIRAT VAIBHAV, Delhi, 2.9.2023
Page No. 15, Size:(6.06)cms X (4.76)cms.

नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा में नई संभावनाएं तलाशने को एनटीपीसी, ऑयल इंडिया में करार

वैभव न्यूज ■ नई दिल्ली

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की एनटीपीसी और ऑयल इंडिया ने नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, हरित हाइड्रोजन के उत्पादन की संभावनाएं तलाशने के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। एनटीपीसी ने बयान में कहा कि इस एमओयू के अंतर्गत भूतापीय और कार्बन उत्सर्जन में कमी से जुड़ी अन्य मुहिमों को भी आगे बढ़ाया जाएगा। एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर एनटीपीसी के चेयरमैन एवं प्रबंध निदेशक (सीएमडी) गुरदीप सिंह और ऑयल इंडिया के सीएमडी रंजीत रथ की उपस्थिति में बृहस्पतिवार को किए गए। कंपनी ने कहा, समझौता ज्ञापन नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, हरित हाइड्रोजन और उससे बनने वाले उत्पाद, भूतापीय और कार्बन उत्सर्जन में कमी लाने के उपायों जैसे क्षेत्रों में सहयोग की संभावनाएं तलाशने के लिए है। एनटीपीसी का लक्ष्य 2032 तक 60 गीगावाट नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता स्थापित करना और हरित हाइड्रोजन प्रौद्योगिकी तथा ऊर्जा भंडारण क्षेत्र में प्रमुख बनना है।

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वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर भी हुआ 157.50 रुपये सस्ता

नयी दिल्ली (एजेंसी) : होटल और रेस्तरां जैसे प्रतिष्ठानों में इस्तेमाल होने वाले वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी की कीमत शुक्रवार को 157.50 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर कम की गई, जबकि विमान ईंधन या एटीएफ की कीमत में 14 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी की गई। इस तरह लगातार तीसरी बार विमान ईंधन के दाम बढ़ाए गए हैं। दिल्ली में 19 किलोग्राम वाले एक वाणिज्य सिलेंडर की कीमत अब 1,522.50 रुपये है। सरकारी ईंधन खुदरा कंपनियों की मूल्य अधिसूचना के अनुसार, दिल्ली में विमान टरबाइन ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमत प्रति किलोलीटर 13,911.07 रुपये बढ़ गई है।