BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 10, Size:(30.18)cms X (18.28)cms.

India's oil imports from Russia may be getting too big for comfort: IEA

'BEATS LOGIC'. If it is legally possible to procure cheaper crude, then why not, says government official

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

The International Energy Agency (IEA), in its latest oil market report, has indicated that India's seaborne imports from Russia could be heading into an uncomfortable territory. "Willing buyers in Asia, namely India, and to a lesser extent, China, have snapped up discounted crude oil cargoes, but increasing volumes on the water suggests that the share of Russian oil in the import mix may be getting too big for comfort," it said.

However, a senior government official said so far there is no indication that anyone wants India's relationship with Russia to stop. The objective is to dilute its export earnings from crude oil.

"This is purely a commercial decision, besides the price cap is being followed. No official communication has been received. The government is seized of the sensitivity and is acting accordingly. It just beats logic that there is cheaper crude available and if it is legally possible to procure it, then why not," the official added.

EVOLVING SITUATION. Trade sources say India has started paying in roubles and dirham; so, the market does not expect major disruptions AP

CHANGING DYNAMICS

Trade sources said this is an evolving situation. India has largely been snapping up cheap Russian crude, of which the Ural blend is around 80 per cent followed by Sokol and ESPO blends, as discounts are still being offered in the range of $20 per barrel (mostly for Ural).

"Ural is largely below the G7 price cap. The price level may be breached in case of Sokol as discounts are low below $5 a barrel (to the benchmark Dubai price). This may breach the cap thereby making it difficult to find insurance and freight. But, India has also started paying in roubles and the UAE's dirham. So the market does not expect major disruptions so far," one of the sources said.

CURRENCY CONUNDRUM?

An oil marketing company official said, "Refiners will continue to import at similar levels, if not more, from Russia till there is a business case."

Kpler's lead analyst (dirty products and refining), Andon Pavlov, said: "While it is probably a bit inconvenient, especially until these payments have been established, the price and realised margin afterwards, respectively, it is just too attractive to hinder this stream from retaining its strength... this appears to be a minor hiccup and will not have a material effect."

MINT, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 9, Size:(5.74)cms X (8.29)cms.

RIL, BP to relaunch KG-D6 gas auction

Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner BP plc have re-launched an auction for sale of natural gas from their eastern offshore KG-D6 block after incorporating the government's new marketing rules to give CNG-selling city gas companies first priority over supplies. Reliance and its partner BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd (BPEAL) will sell 6 million standard cubic meters per day of gas in an e-auction planned for 3 April, a tender notice said. The price is indexed to the global LNG marker, JKM but will be subject to the government-notified ceiling price.

The partners had originally planned the auction in January but days before that the ministry of petroleum and natural gas, on 13 January, published new rules for the sale and resale of gas produced from discoveries in deep sea, ultra-deep water and high-pressure-high temperature areas. **PTI**

Russian oil imports may hit a plateau

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Even as Russia is likely to maintain its position as India's top crude oil supplier, owing to the price advantage, the volume of imports from that country could hit a plateau, going ahead.

From almost negligible imports about a year ago, Russia now accounts for more than one-third (39 per cent) of India's cumulative in-bound shipments, at a monthly average of 18 million tonnes, so far, in FY23.

EXCESS EXHAUSTED

Analysts anticipate that the spare Russian capacity, earlier marked for European Union (EU), is almost exhausted, barring instances such as refinery maintenance shutdowns in Russia later in 2023, which could push more supplies in the market. On Russia's stake increasing further, Kpler's Lead Analyst (Dirty Products and Refining) Andon Pavlov told *businessline*:

There is not much extra crude export capacity available to be sent to India, say analysts REUTERS

"As for the outright level of imports, the Russian pivot away from Europe and into Asia is mostly finished by now, in our view.

"What this means is that there is not much extra crude export capacity available to be sent to India, from a Russian perspective."

The stream to China is mostly established by now; there are some capacities booked for pipeline exports via the Druzhba pipeline, some Russian crude to Turkey and then not much incremental upside from here, he added.

"That being said, it's not out of the question that if Russian refining faces an unsolvable obstacle, it might be forced to reduce runs and free up some crude for exports, but that remains highly unlikely for the time being.

"Still, spring refinery maintenance season is now upon us, and we might see a pick-up in crude exports out of Russia over April-May and September-October, in line with the normal seasonality observed over previous years," Pavlov said.

CLARITY ON DEMAND

A senior official with a domestic refiner said: "For imports to sustain, it's a different story as various factors are at play like China demand and EU LNG/ gas oil purchase for winters. Better sense will emerge around June when there is clarity on demand. Plus, there will be some competition from Saudi Arabia, Iraq as well as South American and African supplies."

Also read p10

TIMES OF INDIA, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 19, Size:(15.04)cms X (14.00)cms.

Adani freezes work on ₹35k cr petchem project at Mundra

Group Continues To Slow Spends After Hindenburg Report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

FORCED RETREAT?

➤ In 2019, **Gautam Adani** had announced plans to enter **petrochemicals sector** with a factory in Gujarat

➤ Two years later, he incorporated **Mundra Petrochem** and **Adani Petrochemicals** to set up feedstock-based refineries and petrochemicals complexes

➤ The freezing of the proposed **1mn tonne green PVC plant** is the largest project to be re-evaluated by Adani since the scathing report by US-based shortseller **Hindenburg**

➤ Earlier, Adani halted a **₹7k cr deal** to acquire **DB Power** and withdrew Adani Ent's **₹20k cr** follow-on public offer (FPO)

➤ Adani had planned the PVC project as demand (3.5MTPA) in India is growing at 7% annually. **India is dependent on imports to keep pace with the demand**

Mumbai: Gautam Adani is suspending activities at the Rs 34,900-crore petrochemicals project in Mundra, Gujarat, as the billionaire's business empire slows down spending following a shortseller attack, news agency PTI reported on Sunday.

In 2019, Adani had announced plans to foray into India's petrochemicals sector with a factory in his home state of Gujarat. Two years later, he incorporated Mundra Petrochem and Adani Petrochemicals to set up feedstock (coal, petcoke, limestone, LPG, LNG, LPG, green fuels, etc) -based refineries and petrochemicals complexes. Both Mundra Petrochem and Adani Petrochemicals are 100% subsidiaries of his empire's flagship Adani Enterprises.

PTI reported that the business tycoon has decided to freeze the proposed one-million-tonne green PVC project due to unforeseen circumstances. Adani, according to mails seen by the news agency, has asked vendors and suppliers to "suspend all activities and performance of all obligations" for Mundra Petrochem's green PVC project "till further notice". The report further said that the conglomerate's management was re-evaluating various projects based on its future cash flow and finance.

This is the latest project that the Adani Group has re-evaluated since the shortseller's attack. Earlier, it halted a Rs 7,017-crore deal to acquire DB Power and withdrew a Rs 20,000-crore further public offering of Adani Enterprises.

In January, New York-based shortseller Hindenburg Research had accused the Indian conglomerate of using offshore shell companies to inflate its listed companies' stock prices as well as of accounting fraud in its report. It also flagged concerns about the Adani Group's Rs 2.3-lakh-crore debt in the report. Adani has denied the allegations.

When contacted for comments on the suspension of activities at the Green PVC project, an Adani Group spokesperson said Adani Enterprises will be "evaluating the status of growth projects in primary industry vertical over the coming months". He didn't elaborate which are these growth projects and in which industries. He added, "The balance sheet of each of our independent portfolio companies is very strong. We have industry-leading project development and execution capabilities, strong corporate governance, secure assets, strong cash flows, and our business plan is fully funded. We remain focused on executing our previously outlined strategy to create value for our stakeholders."

PVC is the world's third-most widely produced synthetic polymer of plastic. It finds wide applications — from flooring to making sewage pipes and other pipe applications, in insulation on electrical wires, packaging and manufacture of aprons, etc. Adani Enterprises had planned the project as PVC demand in India at 3.5 MTPA was growing at the rate of 7% year on year. With near-stagnant domestic production of PVC at 1.4 million tonnes, India is dependent on imports to keep pace with the demand.

FREE PRESS JOURNAL, Mumbai, 20.3.2023
Page No. 6, Size:(6.77)cms X (9.10)cms.

Adani Group suspends work on ₹34,900 cr petchem project

PTI / New Delhi

Adani Group has suspended work on a Rs 34,900 crore petrochemical project at Mundra in Gujarat as it focuses on resources to consolidate operations and address investor concerns following a damning report by a US-based short seller, sources said.

The group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) had in 2021 incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Mundra Petrochem Ltd for setting up a greenfield coal-to-PVC plant at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) land in Kutch.

But after Hindenburg Research's January 24 report alleging accounting fraud, stock manipulations and other corporate governance lapses chopped off about USD 140 billion from the market value of Gautam Adani's empire, the group is hoping to claw back and calm jittery investors and lenders through a comeback strategy.

The comeback strategy is based on addressing investor concerns around debt by repaying some loans, consolidating operations, and fighting off allegations.

The group has denied all allegations levelled by Hindenburg. As part of this, projects are being re-evaluated based on cashflow and finance available.

And of the projects the group has decided not to pursue for the time being is the 1 million tonne per annum Green PVC project, two sources with knowledge of the matter said.

The group has shot off mails to vendors and suppliers to "suspend all activities" on immediate basis.

In the mails, seen by PTI, the group has asked them to "suspend all activities of the scope of work and performance of all obligations" for Mundra Petrochem Ltd's Green PVC project "till further notice."

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 9, Size:(13.60)cms X (27.17)cms.

HINDENBURG FALLOUT

Adani Group suspends work on Rs 34,900 cr petchem project

Group is now focusing on resources to consolidate operations and address investor concerns following the damning report

NEW DELHI: Adani Group has suspended work on a Rs 34,900 crore petrochemical project at Mundra in Gujarat as it focuses on resources to consolidate operations and address investor concerns following a damning report by a US-based short seller, sources said.

The group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) had in 2021 incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Mundra Petrochem Ltd for setting up a greenfield coal-to-PVC plant at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) land in Kutch district of Gujarat.

But after Hindenburg Research's January 24 report alleging accounting fraud, stock manipulations and other corporate governance lapses chopped off about $140 billion from the market value of Gautam Adani's empire, the apples-to-airport group is hoping to claw back and calm jittery investors and lenders through a comeback strategy.

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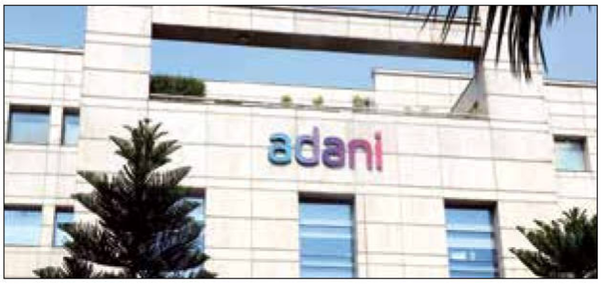
This is the following "unforeseen scenario". The management, it said, was "re-evaluating various project/s being implemented at group level in different business verticals. Based on future cash-flow and finance, some of the project/s are being re-evaluated for its continuation and revision in timeline."



The group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd had in 2021 incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Mundra Petrochem Ltd for setting up a greenfield coal-to-PVC plant at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone land in Kutch district of Gujarat

Reached for comments, a group spokesperson said AEL will be evaluating the status of growth projects in primary industry vertical over the coming months.

"The balance sheet of each of our independent portfolio companies is very strong. We have industry-leading project development and execution capabilities, strong corporate governance, secure assets, strong cashflows, and our business plan is fully funded. We remain focused on executing our previously outlined strategy to create value for our stakeholders," the spokesperson said.

"AEL will be evaluating the status of growth projects in the primary industry vertical over the coming months".

The unit was to have a poly-vinyl-chloride (PVC) production capacity of 2,000 KTPA (kilo tonne per annum) requiring 3.1 million tonne per annum (MTPA) of coal that was to be imported from Australia, Russia and other countries.

PVC is the world's third-most widely produced synthetic polymer of plastic. It finds wide applications - from flooring, to making sewage pipes and other pipe applications, in insulation on electrical wires, packaging and manufacture of aprons etc.

Adani Group had planned the project as PVC demand in India at around 3.5 MTPA was growing at the rate of 7 per cent year-on-year. With near stagnant domestic production of PVC at 1.4 million tonne, India is dependent on imports to keep pace with the demand.

The Hindenburg report had alleged "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud" and use of offshore shell companies to inflate stock prices. The group has denied all Hindenburg allegations, calling them "malicious", "baseless" and a "calculated attack on India".

As part of the comeback strategy, the group has cancelled a Rs 7,000 crore coal plant purchase as well as shelved plans to bid for stake in power trader PTC to conserve expenses. It has repaid some debt and pre-paid some of the finances raised by pledging promoter stake in group companies. PTI

HINDUSTAN TIMES, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 16, Size:(22.30)cms X (5.52)cms.

Adani group suspends work on ₹34,900 cr petrochemical project

Press Trust of India
feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: Adani Group has suspended work on a ₹ 34,900 crore petrochemical project at Mundra in Gujarat as it focuses on resources to consolidate operations and address investor concerns following a damning report by a US-based short seller, people familiar with the matter said. The group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) had in 2021 incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Mundra Petrochem Ltd for setting up a greenfield coal-to-PVC plant at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) land in Kutch, Gujarat.

But after Hindenburg Research's 24 January report alleging accounting fraud, stock manipulation and other corporate governance lapses chopped off about $140 billion from the market value of Gautam Adani's empire, the apples-to-airport group is hoping to claw back and calm jittery investors and lenders through a comeback strategy. The comeback strategy is based on addressing investor concerns around debt by repaying some loans, consolidating operations, and fighting off the allegations.

The group has denied all allegations levelled by Hindenburg. As part of this, projects are being re-evaluated based on cashflow and finance available. And of the projects the group has decided not to pursue for the time being is the 1 million tonne per annum (MTPA) Green PVC project, two people with knowledge of the matter said. The group has shot off mails to vendors and suppliers to "suspend all activities" on an immediate basis.

In the mails, seen by PTI, the group has asked them to "suspend all activities of the scope of work and performance of all obligations" for Mundra Petrochem Ltd's Green PVC project "till further notice." This is following "unforeseen scenario". The management, it said, was "re-evaluating various project/s being implemented at group level in different business verticals. Based on future cashflow and finance, some of the project/s are being re-evaluated for its continuation and revision in timeline." When reached for comments, a group spokesperson said AEL will be evaluating the status of growth projects in primary industry vertical over the coming months.

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FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 1, Size:(20.41)cms X (8.82)cms.

Adani Group halts work on ₹34,900-cr Mundra plant

AMMAR ZAIDI
New Delhi, March 19

ADANI GROUP HAS suspended work on a ₹34,900 crore petrochemical project at Mundra in Gujarat as it focuses on resources to consolidate operations and address investor concerns following a damning report by a US-based short seller, sources said.

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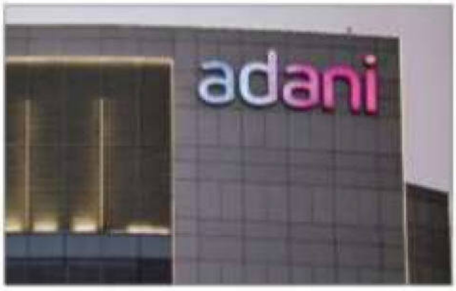

Kutch district of Gujarat.

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The comeback strategy is based on addressing investor concerns around debt by repaying some loans, consolidating operations, and fighting off allegations. The group has denied all allegations levelled by Hindenburg.

As part of this, projects are being re-evaluated based on cashflow and finance available.

Continued on Page 2

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 1, Size:(20.41)cms X (8.82)cms.

Adani Group halts work on ₹34,900-cr Mundra plant

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BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 1, Size:(11.96)cms X (4.18)cms.

HINDENBURG FALLOUT

Adani suspends work on ₹35K-cr petchem project

AMMAR ZAIDI
New Delhi, 19 March

The Adani group has suspended work on a ₹34,900-crore petrochemical project at Mundra in Gujarat as it focuses on resources to consolidate operations and address investor concerns following a damning report by a US-based short seller, sources said.

The group's flagship Adani Enterprises (AEL) had in 2021 incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary, Mundra Petrochem for setting up a greenfield coal-to-PVC plant at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) land in Kutch district of Gujarat.

UNDER ATTACK, NSE CLARIFIES ASM, NIFTY INCLUSION STANCE P4

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PTI

Turn to Page 6

A MAJOR BET

2,000 ktpa projected PVC output capacity of Mundra unit in Gujarat

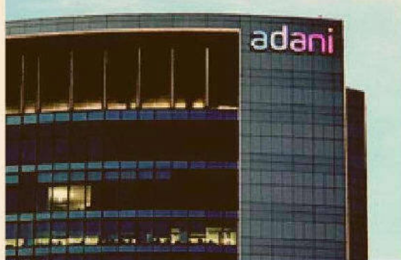
3.1 mtpa coal it would have required

3.5 mtpa PVC demand in India; it's growing at 7% YoY

1.4 mtpa domestic production of PVC

TAKING A STEP BACK

- Adani Green Energy puts ₹10,000-crore capex plan under review
- Adani Power's ₹7,000-cr deal to buy DB Power assets falls through
- Adani group decides against bid for stake in PTC India
- It gives a miss to the bidding process for solar panel manufacturing PLI



BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 20.3.2023
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Adani...

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BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 6, Size:(6.23)cms X (18.86)cms.

Adani Group halts work on ₹34,900-cr petchem project in Gujarat

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

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But after Hindenburg Research's January 24 report which had chopped off about $140 billion from the market value of Gautam Adani's empire, the apples-to-airport group is hoping to claw back and calm jittery investors and lenders through a comeback strategy.

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PROJECTS RE-EVALUATED

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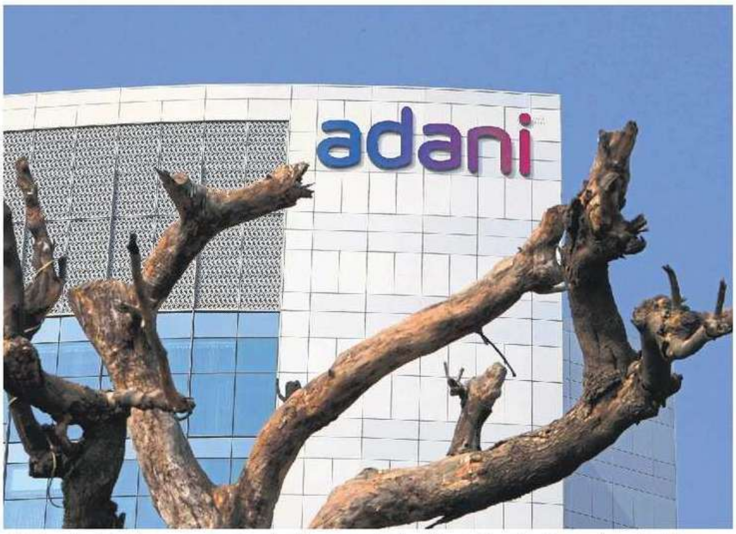
Adani suspends work at ₹34,900 cr project

Group writes to suppliers to suspend all work at Mundra petchem project

PTI
feedback@livemint.com
NEW DELHI



AEL had in 2021 incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Mundra Petrochem Ltd for setting up a greenfield coal-to-PVC plant at APSEZ land in Kutch, Gujarat. AP

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ALL HANDS ON DECK

GROUP hopes to claw back and calm jittery investors and lenders through a comeback strategy

COMEBACK plan is to repay some loans, consolidate operations, and fight off allegations

GREEN PVC project is among the ones the group has decided not to pursue for now

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 2, Size:(18.22)cms X (9.58)cms.

Reliance re-launches gas sale auction in line with govt rules

Reliance Industries and its partner bp have re-launched an auction for sale of natural gas from their eastern offshore Krishna Godavari Dhirubhai-6 (KG-D6) block after incorporating the government's new marketing rules to give CNG-selling city gas companies first priority over supplies. Reliance and its partner BP Exploration (Alpha) (BPEAL) will sell 6 million standard cubic meters per day of gas in an e-auction planned for April 3. PTI

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 9, Size:(8.70)cms X (24.75)cms.

Reliance re-auctions gas in line with new govt rules

RIL & its partner co. will sell 6 mn standard cubic meters per day of gas in an e-auction planned for April 3

NEW DELHI: Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner bp plc have re-launched an auction for sale of natural gas from their eastern offshore KG-D6 block after incorporating the government's new marketing rules to give CNG-selling city gas companies first priority over supplies.

Reliance and its partner BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd (BPEAL) will sell 6 million standard cubic meters per day of gas in an e-auction planned for April 3, a tender notice said. The price is indexed to the global LNG marker, JKM but will be subject to the government-notified ceiling price.

The partners had originally planned the auction in January but days before that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, on January 13, published new rules for the sale and resale of gas produced from discoveries in deep sea, ultra-deep water and high-pressure-high temperature areas.

This led to the auction being suspended and is now being re-launched after incorporating changes.

Gas produced from wells drilled below seabed is used to produce electricity, make fertiliser or turned into CNG for powering automobiles or piped to household kitchens for cooking as well as in industries.

The new government rules require bidders to state upfront if they were purchasing the gas through the auction for 'own use as end consumers (including for use of their group entities) or as a trader.

While end consumers were allowed to resale any unconsumed gas, traders participating in the auction were allowed to resell subject to a maximum trading margin of Rs 200 per thousand cubic meters.

"In any situation, which may require proportionate distribution of the gas offered under the bidding process, the contractor (company selling the gas) shall offer gas to bidders belonging to CNG (transport)/PNG (domestic) sector, fertilizer, LPG and power sector in that order," the ministry had said, adding any leftover gas shall be offered to other bidders.

> Besides incorporating the changes in their tender, Reliance and bp have increased the duration of supply contract to 5 years instead of 3 years

Besides incorporating the changes in their tender, Reliance and bp have increased the duration of supply contract to 5 years instead of 3 years offering the January auction.

Supplies are to start from April 16, the tender said.

City gas distributors selling CNG for the transport sector and piped natural gas to households kitchens will get top priority in allocation of gas in case of tie for any bids, followed by fertilizer, power plants and end consumers/traders in that order, it said.

In the January auction, the gas was intended for sale to end consumers who were not permitted to resale any unconsumed gas. Also, there was no clarity on the participation of traders.

The two partners have now invited bids for the sale of 6 mmscmd (million metric standard cubic meter per day), or a third of the volumes being produced at KG-D6, starting April 16, 2023, according to the tender document. PTI

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 4, Size:(25.97)cms X (35.33)cms.

Parikh panel proposal on gas pricing likely to get govt nod

The move, pending Cabinet nod, may lead to an increase in natural gas prices

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 19 March

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has accepted the main recommendations made by the Kirit Parikh committee in November 2022 on natural gas pricing, and the same will be further recommended to the Cabinet, a number of officials said. The move is expected to impact the energy sector, as the price of natural gas will likely increase.

The officials said the recommendation of moving to a purely market-determined natural gas pricing system in the next four years, and instituting a ceiling price at $6.5 metric million British thermal unit (MMBtu) and float price of $4 per MMBtu for domestic natural gas prices till then have been accepted without any changes.

However, the suggestion of a new pricing formula that will be linked to 10 per cent of the crude prices is also approved but approval by the finance ministry is pending, they added.

The committee had recommended that India should have a free and market-determined pricing for natural gas extracted from legacy fields, and removal of all caps by January 1, 2027.

Till then, the committee has called for a floor price be kept in place to cover the cost of gas production by Oil India (OIL) and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). Meanwhile, the cap recommended by the committee will be raised by $0.50 every year. No change in the pricing mechanism for gas produced from new and difficult fields was suggested.

It also said the price of gas produced by state-owned firms should be linked to imported crude oil prices instead of benchmarking them to gas rates in international hubs - Henry Hub (US & Mexico), Alberta (Canada), National Balancing Point (European Union) and the Russian natural gas.

If accepted by the government, this could reduce the sharp movements in prices that have been witnessed recently due to geopolitical developments. Replies from the finance ministry are awaited regarding this issue.

"All stakeholder discussions have been completed and all relevant ministries and bodies have completed the process of submitting their comments on the issue. Replies to certain recommendations are still expected from the finance ministry, which we expect soon," an official said.

Cabinet approval will be needed to implement this new pricing policy because the old pricing policy is applicable till March 31, 2023.

Higher production and prices

The committee was formed to review the existing pricing formula for domestically produced natural gas in the country.

At present, the government fixes the prices of gas produced from the old fields of state-run ONGC and OIL which account for about 80 per cent of annual gas output of about 91 billion cubic metres.

The new pricing mechanism is expected to benefit domestic producers of natural gas in India, as they will now be able to receive a higher price for their product. This is expected to incentivise domestic production, and lead to an increase in domestic supply. The new pricing formula is also expected to make the pricing of natural gas more transparent and efficient, which will benefit consumers.

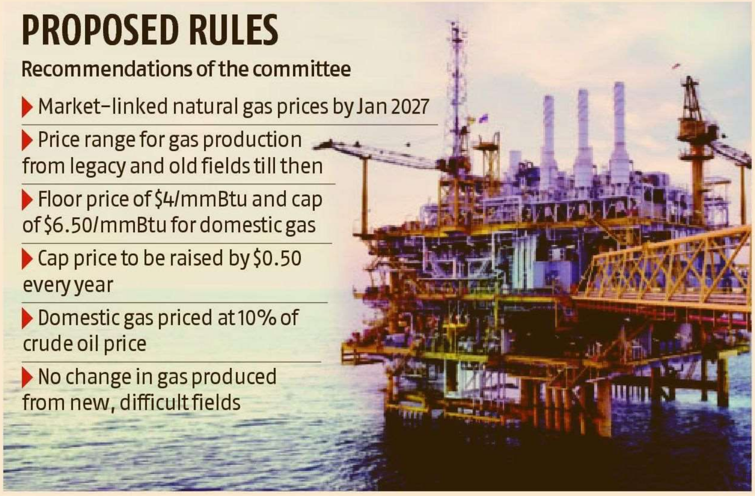
As a result, the government would get a chance to raise the share of gas in India's energy mix to 15 per cent by 2030 from around 6.4 per cent at present.

Almost 50 per cent of the estimated 54.6 billion cubic meters of natural gas used domestically is imported.

However, user industries such as fertiliser producers may need to factor in higher costs for natural gas.

The committee was set up in September 2022 to review the gas pricing formula to ensure fair prices to consumers after state-set prices of gas from old fields and a ceiling price for output from difficult blocks rose to a record high.

The committee was tasked with evaluating the current pricing mechanism and recommending changes that would make the pricing more transparent and efficient.



India to Dubai, tanker giants sprout to keep Russian oil moving

ELIZABETH LOW
19 March

At a downtown office block in Mumbai, packing tape peels off a black door whose handle appears to have been ripped out. A pile of post is strewn on the floor outside. A guy from a neighboring office says the staff moved out a few weeks ago, destination unknown. In Dubai, a small office in an industrial estate, offers no clues that it, too, is a small cog in Russia's vast new petroleum supply chain.

The two locations are listed on an international maritime database as belonging to firms running $2 billion in tanker assets between them. They assembled fleets in under a year that are now delivering millions of barrels of Russian oil across the globe.

The first is a firm called Gatik Ship Management in Mumbai. The second is for Fractal Shipping. They're part of a sprawling network of maritime operations that came to prominence soon after the invasion of Ukraine, helping Russia's oil exports continue substantially unscathed despite sanctions from the West.

"It is this new breed of tanker market players who have helped Russian oil to continue to flow around the world," said Rebecca Galanopoulos Jones, senior content analyst at VesselsValue, a firm that tracks the prices of thousands of merchant ships. "The sanctions on Russian oil seem to have had very little impact on overall export levels."

Anyone wishing to access key western services had to provide an attestation that the cargoes they were transporting cost $60 per barrel or less. The cap was set high on purpose — the US wanted already discounted Russian crude to keep flowing — and both upstart shippers are using plenty of western insurance.

Three-quarters of Gatik's fleet is covered by mutuals within the International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs in London. For Fractal, the proportion is higher still.

Both firms have numerous ships covered by one of the International Group's 13 member organisations, the American Club, in New York.

The American Club's chief operating officer, Daniel Tadros, confirmed his organisation covers ships in both firms' fleets, adding both have provided the documented statements confirming that oil purchases are in accordance with the G7 price cap.

The need for firms like Gatik and Fractal grew because many conventional western shipping firms stopped lifting Russian barrels, either to protest at the invasion or because of the threat of falling foul of sanctions.

Even before the measures began, a huge number of tankers started to be sold to a new group of buyers, whose identities and affiliations were often not clear.

Permitted trade

There are no results when searching for the company Gatik Ship Management on India's Ministry of Corporate Affairs website. A Gatik website address shows that it is under construction. Fractal's website only has an email address for recruitment. Its Dubai address is listed on Equasis as the location for the commercial manager of most of Fractal's tankers. Gatik's fleet can haul about 30 million barrels of oil and fuels. Fractal's has a capacity closer to 15 million barrels.

Almost all Fractal's and Gatik's tankers made calls to Russian ports this year, or took Russian cargoes by ship-to-ship transfer. India and the UAE did not sign up to the price cap, nor do they have other sanctions on Russian oil. They can legally use western services too, providing they give an attestation the cargoes were bought at or below the cap.

Russia-serving

Gatik's earliest recorded tanker acquisition was in June 2022, with its most recent in February this year, according to VesselsValue. Fractal's was in the same month.

Russia exported about 3.2 million barrels a day of crude oil from its ports in the two months after the cap and Europe's imports ban were imposed.

BLOOMBERG

INDIAN EXPRESS, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 1, Size:(11.92)cms X (18.77)cms.

Share of pvt refiners in fuel exports to Europe almost 95% in Apr-Feb

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

AS EUROPE shuns Russian crude oil and petroleum fuels, India's private sector refiners — Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy — have emerged as major beneficiaries, with a disproportionately high share in India's fuel exports to the European continent despite accounting for just around a third of India's refining capacity, as per an analysis of data shared by energy cargo tracker Vortexa.

Given the prevailing geo-politics, the two private sector refiners are seemingly playing an increasingly prominent role in the global crude oil and fuels supply map.

Both the public sector, as well as the private sector refiners in India ramped up imports of discounted Russian crude in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. However, data suggests that while public sector refiners have remained focussed on supplying fuel to the domestic market, private sector players have stepped up exports to Europe in a bid to partly bridge the fuel supply gap for the region.

According to analysts and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED

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Why pvt oil cos sell abroad

PRIVATE refiners did not see sense in selling petrol and diesel in the domestic market since they could not match prices of state-owned oil companies which have kept retail prices unchanged since April last despite incurring losses. Hence they prioritised fuel exports for better margins.

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Page No. 1, Size:(11.92)cms X (18.77)cms.

• Fuel exports

industry insiders, Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy have emerged as significant gainers from the West's punitive action against the Russian energy sector. This is because they are able to purchase Russian oil at a discount on the one hand, and earn robust margins on product supplies to Europe on the other.

In April-February, Indian refiners exported close to 2,24,900 barrels per day (bpd) of petroleum fuels to Europe, with private sector refiners accounting for a staggering 95 per cent, or over 2,13,300 bpd, Vortexa data showed. Public sector refiners like Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum exported just over 11,500 bpd of fuels to Europe.

In fact, in the four months leading up to the February 5 European Union ban on import of refined products from Russia, Indian public sector refiners did not export fuels to Europe at all in two months – November 2022 and January this year. In the same four-month period, private sector refiners supplied an average of around 2,45,500 bpd of petroleum fuels to Europe, around 22 per cent higher than their average export volumes to the continent in the preceding six months, the data shows.

During April-February, India imported a little over 9,40,600 bpd of crude oil from Russia, with private sector refiners accounting for about 45 per cent share, even though their cumulative refining capacity of around 88 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) accounts for just 35 per cent of the country's overall refining capacity of around 251 mtpa. This means that Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy together imported more Russian oil per mtpa of refining capacity than their rivals in the public sector.

In view of super-normal exports by private sector refiners, the government had imposed windfall gains tax on fuel exports from July. "It is important to understand that for OMCs (public sector oil marketing companies), the top priority is to keep the domestic market well-supplied. That is not the case when it comes to private refiners. So, it makes sense for private refiners to prioritise fuel exports to earn higher margins," a senior executive with a public sector refiner told *The Indian Express*.

RIL re-auctions gas in line with new govt rules

PTI / New Delhi

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While end consumers were allowed to resale any unconsumed gas, traders participating in the auction were allowed to resell subject to a maximum trading margin of Rs 200 per thousand cubic meters.

FREE PRESS JOURNAL, Mumbai, 20.3.2023
Page No. 4, Size:(6.09)cms X (25.00)cms.

Citizen Rights: In case of mishaps, OMCs liable for insurance of LPG users

Know Your Rights

Bimal Bhuta

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) – Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum – take comprehensive insurance policy under the 'Public Liability Policy for Oil Industries' to provide speedy relief to the affected persons in case of LPG-related accidents. It covers all LPG consumers registered with the OMCs.

Features of the policy

- The insurance policies taken by LPG distributors/PSU OMCs are public liability policies and not in the name of any individual LPG customer.
- No premium for any insurance policy is collected from the customer by the LPG distributors.
- The claim amount is remitted to the oil company concerned which in turn remits it to the claimant or beneficiary.
- The comprehensive insurance policy taken by PSU OMCs provides for claims on account of
- legal liability, personal accident cover to third party and damage at authorised customers' registered premises.

Scope of the policy

- Public liability insurance policy taken by the OMCs covers losses arising out of accidents where LPG is the primary cause of fire and not for cases where the primary cause of fire is other sources or reasons wherein LPG cylinders get engulfed and subsequently burst.
- Currently, the policy provides for the following:
- Personal accident cover of Rs4 lakh-Rs6 lakh per person in case of death.
- Covers medical expenses of Rs15-Rs30 lakh, with maximum of Rs1 lakh-Rs2 lakh per person.
- In case of property damage, it covers a maximum of Rs1 lakh-Rs2 lakh at authorised customer's registered premises.

Procedure to be followed by customers

- In case of any accident involving a consumer's installation, he/she has to forthwith advise the supplying distributor.
- Whenever an accident is reported, the area office concerned investigates the cause of mishap and if it's an LPG accident, the local office of the insurance company is notified by the concerned distributor or area office, which then lodges a claim with the insurance company.
- The oil/gas companies assist the customer concerned or the next of kin in completing the processes of insurance claims.
- Customers are not required to apply to the insurance company or to contact it directly.
- Customers are required to submit to the oil company the originals of death certificate(s) and post-mortem report(s)/coroners report/inquest report, as applicable, in case of deaths and original medical bills, doctors' prescriptions in original, hospital discharge card in original and any other documents related to the hospitalisation in case of injuries.
- In case of property damage at customers' registered premises, the insurance company appoints their surveyor to assess the loss.
- Claims are settled based upon the merit of each case. The insurance company takes decisions regarding settlement of the claim as per the provisions of insurance policies.

(The writer is a Vile Parle-based social activist)

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 14, Size:(18.19)cms X (18.72)cms.

ONGC, Gets O&G Right

Apropos Sanjeev Choudhary's article, 'ONGC Needs to Snap Out of It' (ET Edit, March 15). After discovering all the six oil and gas basins in Independent India, ONGC has made commercial discoveries in two additional basins since 2018. Accelerated efforts are underway to monetise them. It has ventured into deepwater exploration to bring 2-3 more basins on India's oil and gas map. A series of recent technology tie-ups with some global majors will fast-track monetisation and enhance production from these frontier acreages.

ONGC is commencing oil production from its deepwater fields in the Bay of Bengal in a couple of months. Gas production has already started since March 2020. Committed to addressing carbon neutrality, ONGC is working closely with its partners in implementing futuristic technologies like carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS). Over the decades, ONGC has indeed developed a talent pool in the Indian oil and gas ecosystem.

DEBASISH MUKHERJEE
Chief, corporate communications, ONGC

INDIAN EXPRESS, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 15, Size:(7.96)cms X (6.16)cms.

Reliance re-auctions gas in line with new govt marketing rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES Ltd and its partner bp plc have re-launched an auction for sale of natural gas from their eastern offshore KG-D6 block after incorporating the government's new marketing rules to give CNG-selling city gas companies first priority over supplies.

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The Indian EXPRESS
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Mon, 20 March 2023
https://epaper.indianexpress.com/c/719

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 20.3.2023
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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, March 19

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HINDU, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 10, Size:(6.23)cms X (14.01)cms.

Crude price slump a boost for oil firms, not consumers

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

With global crude oil prices slipping below $75 per barrel last week, Indian oil marketing companies (OMCs) are now making a profit of ₹11.1 per litre on diesel and ₹8.7 per litre on petrol, but consumers hoping for a price cut amid high inflation are unlikely to get any relief soon.

Analysts believe OMCs will need two or three quarters of such profits to recoup losses incurred through 2022 as they had frozen retail prices since May 2022, when the government had cut the excise duty on both fuels.

The three OMCs – Indian Oil (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) – have incurred losses of ₹18,622 crore between April and December 2022, the Petroleum Ministry told Parliament last week, noting petrol and diesel prices have not been increased despite record high international prices.

From an average of $105 a barrel in the first half of 2022-23, Brent crude oil prices averaged $85 per barrel between October 2022 and February, Moody's Investors Service had said in a rating review of the three OMCs late in last month. The agency had also noted that this downtrend along with increased purchase of discounted Russian oil had increased these firms' profitability.

With the woes at U.S. and European banks stoking fears of a contagion effect and a demand slump, oil prices have plummeted below $75 a barrel, lifting the marketing margin for Indian OMCs to ₹11.1/litre and ₹8.7/litre , JM Financial said in a research note.

If crude prices sustain below $75-80 a barrel and "the government permits OMCs to recoup past losses" by not paring retail prices, "this should help them to partly recoup the huge net loss (of ₹50,000 crore) they incurred in the first nine months of 2022-23", JM Financial analyst Dayanand Mittal said.

This January, the Centre had approved ₹22,000 crore as compensation to OMCs for losses suffered due to domestic LPG sales.

GAIL
BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 9, Size:(19.25)cms X (29.50)cms.

Pricing pressure

Gas pricing needs a long-term perspective

A steep decline in prices of natural gas is a cautionary tale of second-guessing demand-supply dynamics in a globally traded commodity. Prices of global gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) have plunged and now trade below oil parity, meaning it is now cheaper for users to burn gas rather than oil. Prices of Dutch TTF, a European benchmark, US benchmark Henry Hub, and spot LNG prices have dropped by over 70 per cent from last year's record levels. The price of spot LNG, a key fuel source for Indian businesses, soared 40-fold from a low of $2 per million mBritish thermal units (one mBtu is 1,000 Btu) in May 2020 to a high of $80/million mBtu in March 2022, before crashing to $13/million mBtu levels now. US Henry Hub, a key reference rate to set domestic gas prices, has declined to $2.50/million mBtu from close to $9/million mBtu last August.

The declines happened amid tight supplies and an ongoing war in Europe and the weather has been an overriding factor. A warmer than expected winter in Europe, coupled with over 80 per cent gas inventory levels, proved a drag on fuel prices. The winter was equally warm in Northeast Asia, which includes the world's biggest LNG importers such as Japan, China, and South Korea. China's stringent zero-Covid policy also reduced demand for LNG. Spot LNG, which was trading at a premium of 100-400 per cent last year to crude oil, now trades at a discount. It is unclear what the future holds. Notably, new LNG production capacity in the US and Qatar, the world's biggest producers of the fuel along with Australia, will come online in 2026-27, bringing a wave of LNG supplies to the market. But until then the weather will continue to play a key role.

It is not uncommon for governments to interfere in fuel prices. Even the US and Europe do so to protect the interests of consumers. A short-term subsidy in this context is understandable, but implementing wholesale changes and changing the rules of the game for investors can hurt a nation's energy security. In principle, it is important for the government to balance the interests of both producers and consumers, and not tilt the scale towards gas utilities and other users. For instance, producers had been complaining for years about lower rates of gas under the administered pricing mechanism. Equally, the ongoing war in Europe upset the economics of city gas distribution firms last year.

The Kirit Parikh Committee, set up in September last year to recommend changes in the natural gas pricing mechanism, proposed in November to alter the peg to set the rate of domestic gas to crude oil rather than global gas rates. It also introduced a ceiling on domestic prices, which were 24 per cent lower than the prevailing rates. The new pricing regime is expected to start on April 1. A price cap of $6.50/million mBtu corresponds to $65 a barrel of crude oil as suggested by the committee. Some forecasters expect Brent crude oil prices to average $92 a barrel this year and $100 a barrel in 2024. At such levels, domestic rates ought to be $9-10/million mBtu, but the price cap will nix any upside for producers, which have faced years of low realisation. The current gas-pricing mechanism has kept large oil companies away, leading to underinvestment in India's exploration sector. The government needs to follow a long-term policy on gas prices.

MCD sets ball rolling for 5th WTE plant

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has finalised the tendering process for setting up a Rs 604-crore waste-to-energy (WTE) plant in Bawana.

This will be the fifth plant set up by the civic body in the city, having a capacity to consume 3,000 tonnes of waste every day. "While the tender has been received and finalised, the case has to be submitted to the standing committee for approval of rate and agency. The plant is targeted to become fully operational by April 2026 and will have a capacity to consume 20% additional waste, as and when required," said an official.

At present, over 11,300 tonnes of waste is generated in the city every day, of which 8,713 metric tonnes are processed daily. Of this, over 7,400 tonnes goes to the waste-to-energy plants situated at Okhla, Narela-Bawana, Ghazipur and Tehkhand. These plants are generating 23 Megawatt, 24 MW, 12 MW and 25 MW electricity per day.

"We will assign some zones to the fifth WTE plant and from these zones garbage will be transported to the plant directly after processing. After commissioning of Bawana WTE plant, there will be zero gap in processing. The site for the fifth plant is located near the existing Narela Bawana WTE plant," said the official.

The civic body is also working with IGL to establish bio-CNG plants at feasible sites.

"After closing of the existing 200 tonne per day compost plant at Okhla, we are in process of converting the same to 300 tonne per day bio-CNG plant. The target date for completing the project is June 24. Besides, one more plant by IGL is being taken up at Ghogha of capacity 100 tonne per day. With the implementation of these projects, the capacity to process waste generated will meet the future requirement also," said the official.

Officials claimed that efforts are made for 100% source segregation and local processing of waste to minimise the waste being sent to the dump site.

Meanwhile, to process legacy waste, the civic body has deployed a total of 51 trommels at three dumpsites and together, these are processing around 14,000 metric tonnes of waste on a daily basis.

HARI BHOOMI, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 10, Size:(21.87)cms X (30.94)cms.

अदाणी समूह के मूल्यांकन में लगभग 140 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर की कमी हुई

हिंडनबर्ग प्रभाव: अदाणी समूह ने 34,900 करोड़ रुपये की पेट्रोरसायन परियोजना का काम रोका

एजेंसी ⏭ नई दिल्ली

अमेरिकन शॉर्ट सेलर हिंडनबर्ग की रिपोर्ट से अभी भी अदाणी को नुकसान हो रहा है। अदाणी के शेयरों और संपत्ति में भारी गिरावट के बाद अब अदाणी को एक और बड़ा नुकसान हुआ है। मीडिया रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार, अदाणी ने 34,900 करोड़ रुपए के पेट्रोकेमिकल प्रोजेक्ट पर काम को रोक दिया है। इस प्रोजेक्ट पर गुजरात के मुंद्रा में काम हो रहा था।

अदाणी एंटरप्राइजेज ने साल 2021 में गुजरात के कच्छ में अदाणी पोर्ट्स एंड स्पेशल इकॉनोमिक जोन भूमि पर कोल टू पीवीसी प्लांट स्थापित करने के लिए पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सब्सिडियरी मुंद्रा पेट्रोकेम लिमिटेड को इनकॉरपोरेट किया था।

क्यों रोकना पड़ा काम?

बताया जाता है कि 24 जनवरी को जैसे ही हिंडनबर्ग रिसर्च रिपोर्ट आई तो माहौल एकदम से बदल गया। रिपोर्ट में अकाउंटिंग फ्रॉड, स्टॉक मैनिपुलेशन और दूसरे कॉरपोरेट गवर्नेंस खामियों के आरोप लगाए गए थे। इसके बाद अदाणी ग्रुप की कंपनियों की कुल मार्केट वैल्यू 140 अरब डॉलर गिर गई थीं। सेब से लेकर एयरपोर्ट तक के कारोबार में शामिल यह ग्रुप अब निवेशकों का भरोसा फिर से जीतने के प्रयासों में लगा है। ऐसे में ग्रुप की विस्तार योजनाओं को झटका लगा है। बताया जा रहा है कि अदाणी फिलहाल कपना सारा कर्ज चुकाने और शेयर धारकों पर विश्वास बढ़ाने पर काम कर रहे हैं।

- पीवीसी प्लास्टिक का दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे व्यापक रूप से उत्पादित सिंथेटिक बहुलक है
- 2021 में पीवीसी बनाने के संयंत्र स्थापित करने मुंद्रा पेट्रोकेम लिमिटेड का गठन किया था
- समूह ने सात हजार करोड़ रुपए के कोयला संयंत्र की खरीद को भी रद्द किया

क्या है अदाणी ग्रुप की रणनीति?

रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार, अदाणी ग्रुप की कमबैक स्ट्रेटेजी निवेशकों की कर्ज से जुड़ी चिंताओं को दूर करने पर आधारित है। ग्रुप कुछ लोन्स का पेमेंट करके और परिचालन को मजबूत करके आरोपों से लड़ने का काम कर रहा है। ग्रुप ने हिंडनबर्ग द्वारा लगाए सभी आरोपों को सिरे से नकारा है। अदाणी ग्रुप कैश फ्लो और उपलब्ध फाइनेंस के आधार पर अपने प्रोजेक्ट्स का पुनर्मूल्यांकन कर रहा है।

सभी एक्टिविटीज रोकने कहा : मामले से जुड़े सूत्रों ने बताया कि जिन प्रोजेक्ट्स पर ग्रुप ने कुछ समय के लिए आगे नहीं बढ़ने का फैसला लिया है, उनमें एक मिलियन टन सालाना ग्रीन पीवीसी प्रोजेक्ट भी शामिल है। ग्रुप ने वेंडर्स और सप्लायर्स को तत्काल आधार पर सभी एक्टिविटीज को रोकने के लिए मेल भेज दिया है। मेल में ग्रुप ने मुंद्रा पेट्रोकेम लिमिटेड के ग्रीन पीवीसी प्रोजेक्ट के लिए अगले नोटिस तक सभी एक्टिविटीज को रोकने को कहा है।

बोली लगाने की योजना स्थगित की

इसके अलावा अदाणी समूह ने सात हजार करोड़ रुपए के कोयला संयंत्र की खरीद को भी रद्द कर दिया है और खर्चों को बचाने के लिए बिजली व्यापारी पीटीसी में हिस्सेदारी के लिए बोली लगाने की योजना को स्थगित कर दिया है। इसने समूह की कंपनियों में प्रवर्तक की हिस्सेदारी गिरवी रखकर जुटाए गए कुछ कर्ज का भुगतान कर दिया है और कुछ वित्त का पूर्व भुगतान कर दिया है।

तीसरा सबसे बड़ा संयंत्र होगा

पीवीसी प्लास्टिक का दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे व्यापक रूप से उत्पादित सिंथेटिक बहुलक है। इसका व्यापक उपयोग होता है। फर्श से लेकर, सीवेज पाइप बनाने और अन्य पाइप अनुप्रयोगों में, बिजली के तारों पर इन्सुलेशन, पैकेजिंग और एप्रन आदि के निर्माण में। यही कारण है कि अदाणी ग्रुप ने इसको लेकर परियोजना की योजना बनाई थी।

भारत में पीवीसी की मांग बढ़ रही

भारत में लगभग 3.5 एमटीपीए की पीवीसी मांग साल-दर-साल सात प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ रही है। 1.4 मिलियन टन पीवीसी के लगभग स्थिर घरेलू उत्पादन के साथ, भारत मांग के साथ तालमेल रखने के लिए आयात पर निर्भर है।

BUSINESS STANDARD HINDI, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 4, Size:(25.88)cms X (18.23)cms.

पारेख समिति की सिफारिशों पर मुहर!

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने प्रमुख सिफारिशें स्वीकार कीं, अब कैबिनेट को लेना है फैसला

शुभायन चक्रवर्ती
नई दिल्ली, 19 मार्च

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने प्राकृतिक गैस के मूल्यों पर किरीट पारेख समिति की प्रमुख सिफारिशों को स्वीकार कर लिया है। समिति ने नवंबर, 2022 को अपनी सिफारिश दी थी। कई अधिकारियों ने बताया कि इन सिफारिशों को शीघ्र ही कैबिनेट के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा। इससे प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। लिहाजा ऊर्जा क्षेत्र पर महत्त्वपूर्ण प्रभाव पड़ने की उम्मीद है।

अधिकारियों के मुताबिक अगले चार वर्षों के लिए स्पष्ट रूप से बाजार-संचालित प्राकृतिक गैस की मूल्य निर्धारण प्रणाली की सिफारिश की गई है। समिति ने घरेलू प्राकृतिक गैस के लिए 6.5 डॉलर के एमएमबीटीयू (मीट्रिक मिलियन ब्रिटिश थर्मल यूनिट) के अधिकतम मूल्य और न्यूनतम मूल्य 4 डॉलर प्रति एमएमबीटीयू की सिफारिश की थी। इस सिफारिश को बिना किसी बदलाव के स्वीकार कर लिया गया है।

सूत्रों ने कहा कि नए मूल्य निर्धारण के फार्मूले में कच्चे तेल के 10 फीसदी दाम जोड़ने की सिफारिश स्वीकृत कर दी गई है लेकिन इसे वित्त मंत्रालय से स्वीकृति का इंतजार है। समिति ने सिफारिश की थी कि भारत को प्राकृतिक गैस के लिए मुक्त और मार्केट आधारित मूल्य निर्धारित करने को अपनाना चाहिए और 1 जनवरी, 2027 तक पूर्ववर्ती सभी प्रतिबंधों को हटा देना चाहिए।

समिति ने अभी के लिए ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड (ओआईएल) और तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) के गैस उत्पादन को न्यूनतम मूल्य पर बेचने के लिए कहा था। हालांकि समिति ने दाम पर प्रति वर्ष 0.50 डॉलर की बढ़ोतरी की सिफारिश की थी। हालांकि नए और मुश्किल उत्खनन स्थलों से गैस उत्पादन का मूल्य निर्धारित करने के तंत्र में कोई सुझाव नहीं दिया गया था।

इसने यह भी कहा था कि राज्य संचालित कंपनियों के गैस उत्पादन को अंतरराष्ट्रीय हब - हेनरी (अमेरिका व मेक्सिको), अलबर्टा (कनाडा) और नैशनल बैलेंसिंग पाइंट (यूरोपियन यूनियन) और रूस के प्राकृतिक गैस की बेंचमार्किंग की जगह आयातित कच्चे तेल से जोड़ा जाना चाहिए। यदि सरकार इस सिफारिश को स्वीकार कर लेती है तो दाम में भारी उतार-चढ़ाव कम हो सकता है। हालिया भूराजनैतिक बदलावों के कारण दाम में खासा उतार-चढ़ाव हुआ था। इस मामले पर वित्त मंत्रालय के जवाब का इंतजार है। अधिकारी ने कहा, ''सभी साझेदारों से चर्चा पूर्ण हो चुकी है। सभी संबंधित मंत्रालयों और निकायों ने अपनी टिप्पणियां देने की प्रक्रिया पूरी कर ली हैं। वित्त मंत्रालयों से कुछ सिफारिशों पर जवाब का इंतजार है जो शीघ्र आने की उम्मीद है।'

नई मूल्य निर्धारण नीति को लागू करने के लिए मंत्रिमंडल की स्वीकृति की जरूरत होगी। इसका कारण यह है कि पुराना मूल्य निर्धारण की नीति 31 मार्च, 2023 तक लागू है।

बढ़ सकते हैं प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम, ये हैं प्रमुख सिफारिशें

- अगले चार वर्षों के लिए स्पष्ट रूप से बाजार-संचालित प्राकृतिक गैस की मूल्य निर्धारण प्रणाली की सिफारिश की गई
- समिति ने घरेलू प्राकृतिक गैस के लिए 6.5 डॉलर के एमएमबीटीयू के अधिकतम मूल्य और न्यूनतम मूल्य 4 डॉलर प्रति एमएमबीटीयू की सिफारिश की थी
- नए मूल्य निर्धारण के फार्मूले में कच्चे तेल के 10 फीसदी दाम जोड़ने की सिफारिश स्वीकृत की लेकिन इसे वित्त मंत्रालय से स्वीकृति का इंतजार है
- भारत को प्राकृतिक गैस के लिए मुक्त और मार्केट आधारित मूल्य निर्धारित करने की व्यवस्था अपनानी चाहिए

अधिक उत्पादन और मूल्य

देश में घरेलू उत्पादित प्राकृतिक गैस के हालिया मूल्य निर्धारण की समीक्षा के लिए समिति की गठन हुआ था। वर्तमान समय में सरकार ने राज्य संचालित ओएनजीसी और ऑयल के गैस उत्पादन का मूल्य निर्धारित कर रखा है। प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन में राज्य संचालित कंपनियों की हिस्सेदारी 80 फीसदी और यह करीब 91 बिलियन क्यूबिक मैट्रिक है।

मूल्य निर्धारण के इस नए तंत्र से प्राकृतिक गैस के घरेलू उत्पादकों को फायदा मिलने की उम्मीद है। इसका कारण यह है कि उन्हें अपने उत्पादों के लिए उच्च दाम प्राप्त होगा। उम्मीद है कि इससे घरेलू उत्पादन को बढ़ावा मिलेगा और घरेलू उत्पादन में भी बढ़ोतरी होगी।

मूल्य निर्धारण के नए फार्मूले से प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम अधिक पारदर्शी और समुचित होंगे। इससे ग्राहकों को फायदा पहुंचने की उम्मीद है। इसका परिणाम यह हो सकता है कि सरकार भारत में ऊर्जा मिक्स में गैस की वर्तमान हिस्सेदारी 6.4 फीसदी से बढ़ाकर 2030 तक 15 फीसदी करने की उम्मीद है।

घरेलू स्तर पर इस्तेमाल होने वाली प्राकृतिक गैस में करीब 50 फीसदी आयात की जाती है और करीब 54.6 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर प्राकृतिक गैस आयात की जाती है। हालांकि औद्योगिक उत्पादक जैसे उर्वरक निर्माताओं को प्राकृतिक गैस का अधिक मूल्य अदा करना पड़ सकता है।

पुराने उत्खनन स्थलों व मुश्किल ब्लॉक से तेल के उत्पाद का न्यूनतम मूल्य रिकार्ड ऊंचाई पर बढ़ने के कारण गैस मूल्य के फार्मूले और उपभोक्ताओं को उचित दाम मुहैया करवाने के लिए सितंबर 2022 में यह समिति गठित की गई थी।

समिति का कार्य वर्तमान मूल्य के तंत्र का मूल्यांकन करना और पारदर्शी व समुचित मूल्य की सिफारिशें करना था।

HINDUSTAN, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(5.97)cms X (14.82)cms.

गैस की नीलामी फिर से शुरू होगी

नई दिल्ली। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लि. और उसकी भागीदार बीपी पीएलसी ने अपने पूर्वी अपतटीय क्षेत्र केजी-डी6 ब्लॉक से प्राकृतिक गैस की बिक्री के लिए नीलामी फिर से शुरू की है। दोनों कंपनियों ने सरकार के सीएनजी और पाइप के जरिये रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति करने वाली गैस वितरण कंपनियों को आपूर्ति के स्तर पर प्राथमिकता देने को लेकर नए विपणन नियम शामिल करने के बाद यह कदम उठाया है।

अब नए नियमों को शामिल करते हुए इसे फिर से शुरू किए जाने की घोषणा की गई है। इसमें कहा गया है कि गाड़ियों के लिए सीएनजी और पाइप के जरिये रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति करने वाली गैस वितरण कंपनियों को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी।

VIRAT VAIBHAV, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 15, Size:(21.40)cms X (13.15)cms.

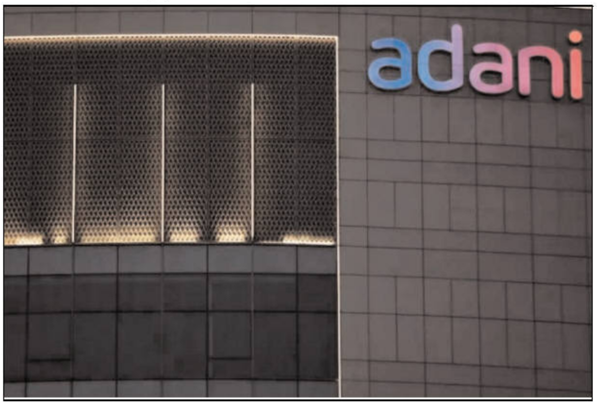
रिलायंस नए नियमों के तहत गैस की नीलामी फिर से शुरू की

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लि. और उसकी भागीदार बीपी पीएलसी ने अपने पूर्वी अपतटीय क्षेत्र केजी-डी6 ब्लॉक से प्राकृतिक गैस की बिक्री के लिए नीलामी फिर से शुरू की है। दोनों कंपनियों ने सरकार के सीएनजी और पाइप के जरिए रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति करने वाली गैस वितरण कंपनियों को आपूर्ति के स्तर पर प्राथमिकता देने को लेकर नए विपणन नियम शामिल करने के बाद यह कदम उठाया है। निविदा नोटिस के अनुसार रिलायंस और उसकी भागीदार बीपी एक्सप्लोरेशन (अल्फा) लि. (बीपीईएल) तीन अप्रैल को प्रस्तावित नीलामी योजना के तहत 60 लाख घन मीटर प्रतिदिन गैस की

बिक्री करेगी। इसकी कीमत वैश्विक एलएनजी मार्कर, जेकेएम (जापान कोरिया मार्कर) से संबद्ध है। लेकिन यह सरकार की तरफ से अधिसूचित उच्चतम मूल्य के अधीन होगा। दोनों भागीदार कंपनियों की शुरू में जनवरी में नीलामी की योजना थी। लेकिन उसके कुछ दिन पहले ही पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने गहरे सागर क्षेत्र तथा उच्च दबाव-उच्च तापमान वाले क्षेत्रों से उत्पादित गैस की बिक्री और पुनःबिक्री के लिए 13 जनवरी को नए नियम प्रकाशित किए। इसके कारण, नीलामी रोक दी गई और अब नए नियमों को शामिल करते हुए इसे फिर से शुरू किए जाने की घोषणा की गई है। सरकार के नए नियमों के अनुसार बोली लगाने वालों को पहले ही बताना होगा कि वे नीलामी के माध्यम से जो गैस खरीद कर रहे हैं, उसका उपयोग अंतिम उपभोक्ता के रूप में स्वयं करेंगे या फिर कारोबार के लिए करेंगे। अंतिम उपभोक्ताओं को बची हुई गैस को दोबारा से बेचने की अनुमति होगी। वहीं नीलामी में भाग लेने वाले कारोबारियों को अधिकतम 200 रुपए प्रति हजार घन मीटर मार्जिन के तहत ही बेचने की इजाजत होगी। मंत्रालय ने कहा, बोली प्रक्रिया के तहत प्रस्तावित गैस के आनुपातिक वितरण की अगर जरूरत है तो अनुबंधकर्ता (गैस बेचने वाली कंपनी) सीएनजी पीएनजी (घरेलू रसोई गैस), उर्वरक, एलपीजी और बिजली क्षेत्र से संबंधित बोलीदाताओं को गैस की पेशकश उसी व्यवस्था के तहत करेगा। अपनी निविदाओं में बदलावों को शामिल करने के बाद, रिलायंस और बीपी ने आपूर्ति अनुबंध तीन साल से बढ़ाकर पांच साल करने का निर्णय किया है। पिछली निविदा में यह अवधि तीन साल थी। निविदा के अनुसार आपूर्ति 16 अप्रैल से शुरू होगी। इसमें कहा गया है कि गाड़ियों के लिए सीएनजी और पाइप के जरिए रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति करने वाली गैस वितरण कंपनियों को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। उर्वरक, बिजलीघर और दूसरे अंतिम उपभोक्ताकारोबारियों को तरजीह दी जाएगी। दस्तावेज के अनुसार दोनों कंपनियों ने 60 लाख घन मीटर प्रतिदिन गैस की आपूर्ति या 16 अप्रैल, 2023 से शुरू केजी-डी 6 से उत्पादित गैस का एक तिहाई हिस्से के लिए बोलियां आमंत्रित की है।

अडाणी समूह ने 34,900 करोड़ रुपए की पेट्रोरसायन परियोजना का काम रोका



एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

अडाणी समूह ने गुजरात के मुंद्रा में 34,900 करोड़ रुपए की पेट्रोरसायन परियोजना का काम रोक दिया है। समूह अमेरिकी निवेश कंपनी हिंडनबर्ग की रिपोर्ट से हुए नुकसान के बाद अपने परिचालन को मजबूत करने और निवेशकों की चिंताओं को दूर करने के लिए संसाधनों पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहा है। समूह की प्रमुख कंपनी अडाणी एंटरप्राइजेज लिमिटेड (एईएल) ने 2021 में एक नया कोयले से पीवीसी बनाने के संयंत्र स्थापित करने के लिए पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनी मुंद्रा पेट्रोकेम लिमिटेड का गठन किया था। यह संयंत्र गुजरात के कच्छ जिले में अडाणी पोर्ट्स एंड स्पेशल इकोनॉमिक जोन (एपीएसईजेड) की जमीन पर लगाया जाना था। हिंडनबर्ग रिसर्च की 24 जनवरी की रिपोर्ट के बाद अडाणी समूह के मूल्यांकन में लगभग 140 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर की कमी हुई है। ऐसे में समूह फिलहाल कुछ कर्ज चुकाने, संचालन को मजबूत करने और निवेशकों की चिंताओं को दूर करने पर ध्यान दे रहा है। समूह ने हिंडनबर्ग के सभी आरोपों का खंडन किया है। इस मामले की जानकारी रखने वाले दो सूत्रों ने बताया कि जिन परियोजनाओं पर समूह ने कुछ समय के लिए आगे नहीं बढ़ने का फैसला किया है, उसमें 10 लाख टन प्रति वर्ष क्षमता वाली ग्रीन पीवीसी परियोजना शामिल है। समूह ने विक्रेताओं और आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को ईमेल भेजकर तत्काल सभी गतिविधियों को रोकने को कहा है। इसमें समूह ने विक्रेताओं और आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से मुंद्रा पेट्रोकेम लिमिटेड की ग्रीन पीवीसी परियोजना के लिए अगले नोटिस तक सभी गतिविधियों और सभी दायित्वों को निलंबित करने के लिए कहा है। समूह ने कहा, विभिन्न व्यावसायिक कार्यक्षेत्रों में समूह स्तर पर लागू की जा रही विभिन्न परियोजनाओं का पुनर्मूल्यांकन किया जा रहा है। भविष्य के नकदी प्रवाह और वित्त के आधार पर, कुछ परियोजनाओं की निरंतरता और समयरेखा में संशोधन के लिए पुनर्मूल्यांकन किया जा रहा है। इस संबंध में टिप्पणी के लिए संपर्क करने पर समूह के एक प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि एईएल आने वाले महीनों में प्राथमिक उद्योग में विकास परियोजनाओं की स्थिति का मूल्यांकन करेगी। उन्होंने कहा, हमारी स्वतंत्र पोर्टफोलियो कंपनियों में से प्रत्एक के बही-खाते बहुत मजबूत है। उन्होंने बताया कि हमारे पास अग्रणी परियोजना विकास और निष्पादन क्षमताएं, मजबूत कंपनी प्रशासन, सुरक्षित संपत्तियां, मजबूत नकदी प्रवाह हैं, और हमारी व्यावसायिक योजना पूरी तरह से वित्त पोषित है। प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि हम अपने हितधारकों के लिए बेहतर मूल्य तैयार करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं।

VEER ARJUN, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 10, Size:(21.87)cms X (30.94)cms.

भारत के साथ तेल पाइप लाइन बांग्लादेश में ईंधन सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में बड़ी भूमिका निभाएगी : हसीना

ढाका, (भाषा)। प्रधानमंत्री शेख हसीना ने कहा है कि बांग्लादेश की भारत के साथ पहली सीमापार तेल पाइपलाइन उनके देश में ईंधन सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में बड़ी भूमिका निभाएगी।

हसीना ने भारत के प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के साथ 131.5 किलोमीटर लंबी भारत-बांग्लादेश मैत्री पाइपलाइन का शनिवार को ऑनलाइन उद्घाटन करने के दौरान यह बात कही। हसीना ने भारत को बांग्लादेश का सच्चा दोस्त बताते हुए कहा कि वे इस मित्रता को कायम रखना चाहती हैं। यह पाइपलाइन दोनों देशों के बीच ऊर्जा सहयोग का अंग है, जिसके माध्यम से बांग्लादेश भारत से पेट्रोलियम खासकर डीजल का आयात करेगा। इस परियोजना पर 377 करोड़ रुपये का खर्च आया है। हसीना ने कहा, रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध के कारण जहां दुनियाभर के कई देश ईंधन संकट के कगार पर पहुंच गए हैं, वहीं यह पाइपलाइन हमारी जनता के लिए ईंधन सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगी। उन्होंने कहा, मैत्री पाइपलाइन दोनों मित्र देशों के बीच विकास के लिए सहयोग की दिशा में एक मील का पत्थर है। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा, यह पाइपलाइन ईंधन सुरक्षा के अलावा आर्थिक वृद्धि को भी बढ़ावा देगी। हसीना ने कहा कि भारत से डीजल आयात करने के लिए समय और व्यय में भी इस पाइपलाइन से उल्लेखनीय कमी आएगी। सरकारी संवाद एजेंसी यूनाइटेड न्यूज ऑफ बांग्लादेश ने उनके हवाले से बताया, हमने अपनी सभी द्विपक्षीय समस्याओं को एक-एक करके सुलझा लिया है.. हमें अपने विकास के लिए भारत से सहयोग मिल रहा है। उन्होंने कहा, हम भारत से।,160 मेगावॉट ऊर्जा आयात कर रहे हैं। ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कुछ और क्षेत्रीय व द्विपक्षीय कार्यक्रम प्रक्रिया में हैं। इस क्षेत्र में हमारा सहयोग आने वाले दिनों में और प्रगाढ़ होगा। उन्होंने कहा, हम राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्दों पर मिलकर काम करेंगे। ऐतिहासिक व भौगोलिक एकरूपता बांग्लादेश और भारत के बीच संबंधों को और मजबूत करेंगे। हसीना ने अपने देश में निवेश करने के लिए भारतीय निवेशकों को भी आमंत्रित किया।

प्रधानमंत्री शेख हसीना

अपने कार्यालय से इस कार्यक्रम से जुड़े भारत के प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने भी संबोधित किया। उन्होंने कहा कि यह पाइपलाइन भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों का नया अध्याय शुरू करेगी। मोदी ने कहा, यह पाइपलाइन बांग्लादेश के तेजी से होते विकास को और गति देगी और दोनों देशों के बीच संपर्क बढ़ाने का एक उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण होगी। यह पाइपलाइन नुमालीगढ़ रिफाइनरी लिमिटेड ।एनआरएला के सिलीगुड़ी स्थित मार्केटिंग टर्मिनल से बांग्लादेश पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन ।बीपीसीा के पर्बतीपुर डिपो तक है। बीडीन्यूज24 डॉट कॉम ने बताया कि समझौते के तहत भारत पहले तीन साल दो लाख टन तेल प्रतिवर्ष भेजेगा। अगले तीन साल तीन लाख टन डीजल प्रतिवर्ष निर्यात करेगा। उसके बाद अगले चार साल तक पांच लाख टन डीजल प्रतिवर्ष निर्यात करेगा और उसके बाद हर साल 10 लाख टन डीजल भेजेगा। इससे पहले, बिजली, ऊर्जा और खनिज संसाधन राज्यमंत्री नसरुल हामिद ने कहा था कि इस पाइपलाइन से बांग्लादेश के लिए डीजल आपूर्ति के खर्च में 50 प्रतिशत तक कमी आएगी।

VEER ARJUN, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 11, Size:(21.87)cms X (30.94)cms.

रिलायंस ने नए नियमों के तहत गैस की नीलामी फिर से शुरू की

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लि. और उसकी भागीदार बीपी पीएलसी ने अपने पूर्वी अपतटीय क्षेत्र केजी-डी6 ब्लॉक से प्राकृतिक गैस की बिक्री के लिये नीलामी फिर से शुरू की है। दोनों कंपनियों ने सरकार के सीएनजी और पाइप के जरिये रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति करने वाली गैस वितरण कंपनियों को आपूर्ति के स्तर पर प्राथमिकता देने को लेकर नये विपणन नियम शामिल करने के बाद यह कदम उठाया है।

निविदा नोटिस के अनुसार रिलायंस और उसकी भागीदार बीपी एक्सप्लोरेशन (अल्फा) लि. (बीपीईएएल) तीन अप्रैल को प्रस्तावित नीलामी योजना के तहत 60 लाख घन मीटर प्रतिदिन गैस की बिक्री करेगी। इसकी कीमत वैश्विक एलएनजी मार्कर, जेकेएम (जापान कोरिया मार्कर) से संबद्ध है। लेकिन यह सरकार की तरफ से अधिसूचित उच्चतम मूल्य के अधीन होगा।

दोनों भागीदार कंपनियों की शुरू में जनवरी में नीलामी की योजना थी। लेकिन उसके कुछ दिन पहले ही पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने गहरे सागर क्षेत्र तथा उच्च दबाव-उच्च तापमान वाले क्षेत्रों से उत्पादित गैस की बिक्री और पुन:बिक्री के लिये 13 जनवरी को नये नियम प्रकाशित किये।इसके कारण, नीलामी रोक दी गयी और अब नये नियमों को शामिल करते हुए इसे फिर से शुरू किये जाने की घोषणा की गयी है।

सरकार के नये नियमों के अनुसार बोली लगाने वालों को पहले ही बताना होगा कि वे नीलामी के माध्यम से जो गैस खरीद कर रहे हैं, उसका उपयोग अंतिम उपभोक्ता के रूप में स्वयं (अपने समूह की इकाइयों समेत) करेंगे या फिर कारोबार के लिये करेंगे।

अंतिम उपभोक्ताओं को बची हुई गैस को दोबारा से बेचने की अनुमति होगी। वहीं नीलामी में भाग लेने वाले कारोबारियों को अधिकतम 200 रुपये प्रति हजार घन मीटर मार्जिन के तहत ही बेचने की इजाजत होगी।मंत्रालय ने कहा, बोली प्रक्रिया के तहत प्रस्तावित गैस के आनुपातिक वितरण की अगर जरूरत है तो अनुबंधकर्ता (गैस बेचने वाली कंपनी) सीएनजी (परिवहन)ापीएनजी (घरेलू रसोई गैस), उर्वरक, एलपीजी और बिजली क्षेत्र से संबंधित बोलीदाताओं को गैस की पेशकश उसी व्यवस्था के तहत करेगा।

अपनी निविदाओं में बदलावों को शामिल करने के बाद, रिलायंस और बीपी ने आपूर्ति अनुबंध तीन साल से बढ़ाकर पांच साल करने का निर्णय किया है। पिछली निविदा में यह अवधि तीन साल थी।

RASHTRIYA SAHARA, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 11, Size:(23.35)cms X (39.54)cms.

रिलायंस ने शुरू की नए नियमों के तहत गैस नीलामी

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लि. और उसकी भागीदार बीपी पीएलसी ने अपने पूर्वी अपतटीय क्षेत्र केजी-डी6 ब्लाक से प्राकृतिक गैस की बिक्री के लिए नीलामी फिर से शुरू की है। दोनों कंपनियों ने सरकार के सीएनजी और पाइप के जरिए रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति करने वाली गैस वितरण कंपनियों को आपूर्ति के स्तर पर प्राथमिकता देने को लेकर नए विपणन नियम शामिल करने के बाद यह कदम उठाया है।

निविदा नोटिस के अनुसार रिलायंस और उसकी भागीदार बीपी एक्सप्लोरेशन (अल्फा) लि. (बीपीईएएल) तीन अप्रैल को प्रस्तावित नीलामी योजना के तहत 60 लाख घन मीटर प्रतिदिन गैस की बिक्री करेगी। इसकी कीमत वैश्विक एलएनजी मार्कर, जेकेएम (जापान कोरिया मार्कर) से संबद्ध है। लेकिन यह सरकार की तरफ से अधिसूचित उच्चतम मूल्य के अधीन होगा। दोनों भागीदार कंपनियों की शुरू में जनवरी में नीलामी की योजना थी। लेकिन उसके कुछ दिन पहले ही पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने गहरे सागर क्षेत्र तथा उच्च दबाव-उच्च तापमान वाले क्षेत्रों से उत्पादित गैस की बिक्री और पुनःबिक्री के लिए 13 जनवरी को नए नियम प्रकाशित किए। इसके कारण, नीलामी रोक दी गई और अब नए नियमों को शामिल करते हुए इसे फिर से शुरू किए जाने की घोषणा की गई है। सरकार के नए नियमों के अनुसार बोली लगाने वालों को पहले ही बताना होगा कि वे नीलामी के माध्यम से जो गैस खरीद कर रहे है, उसका उपयोग अंतिम उपभोक्ता के रूप में स्वयं (अपने समूह की इकाइयों समेत) करेंगे या फिर कारोबार के लिए करेंगे।

RASHTRIYA SAHARA, Delhi, 20.3.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(25.65)cms X (46.82)cms.

मैत्री पाइपलाइन

भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों में शनिवार को एक या अध्याय जुड़ गया जब प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी और बांग्लादेश की उनकी समकक्ष शेख हसीना ने उत्तरी बांग्लादेश में डीजल की आपूर्ति करने के लिए पाइपलाइन परियोजना का उद्घाटन किया। दोनों देशों के बीच यह पहली सीमा पार ऊर्जा पाइपलाइन है। वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिए उद्घाटित परियोजना पर 377 करोड़ रुपये की लागत आई है, जिसमें से 285 करोड़ रुपये बांग्लादेश में पाइपलाइन बिछाने पर खर्च हुए हैं। यह खर्च भारत ने अनुदान के रूप में

बांग्लादेश को दिया है। 131.5 किलोमीटर लंबी पाइपलाइन से असम में नुमालीगढ़ से बांग्लादेश तक हर साल दस लाख मीट्रिक टन डीजल की आपूर्ति की जाएगी। भारत-बांग्लादेश फ्रेंडशिप पाइपलाइन की नींव सितम्बर, 2018 में रखी गई थी। यह पाइपलाइन बांग्लादेश के विकास को और गति देगी और दोनों देशों के बीच कनेक्टिविटी का भी उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण होगी। इस समय भारत से बांग्लादेश को डीजल आपूर्ति 512 किलोमीटर लंबे रेल मार्ग से की जाती है जिससे परिवहन लागत बढ़ जाती है। इस परियोजना के क्रियान्वयन से इस खर्च से निजात मिलेगी। कार्बन उत्सर्जन भी कम होगा। बांग्लादेश के साथ भारत की रेल कनेक्टिविटी आजादी के बाद काफी समय तक ठप पड़ी रही। इससे दोनों देशों के बीच आवागमन और साज-सामान के वहन में परेशानी दरपेश थी। महसूस किया गया कि दोनों देशों के बीच 1965 से पहले के रेल संपर्क को बहाल किया जाए तो दोनों के बीच ऊर्जा कारोबार में काफी बढ़ोतरी हो सकती है। अभी भारत का बांग्लादेश के साथ पेट्रोलियम कारोबार एक अरब डॉलर से ज्यादा का है। भारत अभी बांग्लादेश को 1,100 मेगावाट से ज्यादा बिजली आपूर्ति कर रहा है। कोरोना महामारी के दौरान रेल संपर्क बहाल होने से बांग्लादेश को बहुत फायदा हुआ और वह रेलमार्ग के जरिए भारत से ऑक्सीजन की आपूर्ति प्राप्त कर सका। बांग्लादेश अच्छे से जानता है कि भारत के साथ कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ना उसके हित में है। खासकर ऊर्जा जरूरतों के मद्देनजर तो वह बनिस्बत कम लागत पर अपनी ऊर्जा जरूरतें पूरी कर सकता है। मैत्री सुपर थर्मल पावर प्लांट की दूसरी यूनिट को भी जल्द ही चालू किया जाएगा। बेशक, दोनों देशों के रेल और रोड कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ने से ऊर्जा सहयोग तेजी से बढ़ रहा है।