'PLI scheme for chemicals and petrochemicals sector likely'

FOCUSSED PUSH. Centre is in favour of India becoming a manufacturing hub, says FM

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that government will consider PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme for Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals sector.

"We are in favour of India becoming a manufacturing hub and we will consider the PLI scheme also for the chemicals and petrochemicals sector," Sitharaman said while addressing Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India Summit here.

Currently, the PLI scheme is available for 14 sectors, where incentive is given on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments, to eligible companies, for a limited period. Key sectors of PLI include electronic manufacturing, bulk drugs; medical devices, pharmaceuticals, telecom and networking products, food items and drones. The scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments.


BRIGHT PROSPECTS. The chemical and petrochemicals sector has huge potential

GREEN MISSION

The Minister said that the Indian chemical and petrochemicals sector has huge potential, and it also impacts other sectors. She said that the importance of the sector can be gauged from the fact that it manufactures 80,000 products across sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, textiles and packaging. She stated that India aims to become energy independent by 2047 and achieve net zero by 2070. She urged the industry to play a key role in this mission.

"Net zero cannot be achieved unless each one of the industry and sector contributes to it. We are very focused on green growth, carbon intensity has to be reduced and therefore, each one of the sectors has to contribute towards this," she said. Highlighting the challenges in the sector, she urged the industry to focus on issues related to sustainability of the products and processes; according to her, there was an immense need for skilling in the industry, as also adopting "Industry 4.0 in a very big way", and pollution control regulations.

"India has made an impact in the sector globally. The combined exports of major chemicals and petrochemicals in 2022-23 was $9 billion, but also an increase in imports to $13.33 billion. I am quite comfortable with this, but many of these imports are items which can be produced in India and there are some efforts in that direction as well," she said.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Sitharaman also urged the industry to look at ways to become a circular economy and the government will work to consider the industry's recommendations to make the sector sustainable. She added that the market of specialty chemicals was growing exponentially and the industry in India was expected to grow at 12 per cent CAGR.

"I, therefore, understand the need for more robust support for specialised chemicals. The emergence of this market is driven by the country's strong process engineering capabilities, low-cost manufacturing capabilities and abundant manpower," the Finance Minister said.

Bhagwanth Khuba, Minister of State for Chemicals and Petrochemicals, and New and Renewable Energy, said that the government is working towards creating an eco-system for the sector. "The government is working with State governments to set up chemical parks and the process of setting up plastic parks is already in place," he said.

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 28.7.2023

Page No. 9, Size:(10.90)cms X (4.84)cms.

'Refining Capacity to Grow at Slower Pace'

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Indian refining capacity would expand at a far slower pace than was estimated earlier, according to latest government projection. Refiners would add 56 mtpa by 2028 to increase domestic capacity to 310 mtpa. "As per the data compiled by Centre for High Technology (CHT), a technical wing of ministry of petroleum and natural gas, the refining capacity of Indian refineries is projected to increase by about 56 mtpa by the year 2028," junior oil minister Rameswar Teli told Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Domestic refining capacity currently stands at 254 mtpa. Five years earlier, an oil ministry panel had prepared a detailed report on refining capacity and had projected the capacity to rise to 259 mt by 2020, 415 mt by 2025, and 439 mtpa by 2030. These projections were based on "firm plans and the projects already conceptualised and accepted in principle", the committee had then said.

12,206-km gas pipelines being built: Ministry

MANISH GUPTA
New Delhi, July 27

A TOTAL OF 12,206-km of natural gas pipelines are under various stages of construction, minister of state in the ministry of petroleum and natural gas Rameswar Teli informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday. India aims to increase the share of natural gas in its energy mix from 6.7% to 15% by 2030.

"With the aim to create a national gas grid (One Nation, One Gas Grid) and increase the availability of natural gas across the country, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has authorised about 33,592 km natural gas pipeline network across the country," Teli said in a written reply.

Out of the 33,592 km, 23,173 km pipelines including spur lines, tie-in connectivity, sub-transmission pipelines (STPL) and dedicated pipelines are operational.

BPCL still in talks for Russian oil

BHARAT PETROLEUM IS still in talks with Russian oil major Rosneft to buy oil under a term deal, its head of finance said, adding that discounts on Russian oil are narrowing.

"Yes, there were discussions happening with Rosneft but not yet concluded," Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta told an analysts' conference after the company's June quarter earnings report.

Reuters last month reported that BPCL is in talks to buy up to 6 million tonne of Russian oil under a term deal with Rosneft.

Indian refiners have been snapping up discounted Russian oil since many other countries imposed sanctions on Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine. The discounts make Russian oil cheaper than similar grades from the Middle East.

But Gupta said discounts on Russian oil are shrinking compared to previous quarters. Narrowing discounts amid tightening supply made Russian Urals oil prices for August loading jump above the $60 per barrel price cap, sources told Reuters last month.

He said, "If the crude discount comes down (further) then there is no good advantage or commercial advantage of taking Russian crude".

–REUTERS

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 4, Size:(10.04)cms X (38.76)cms.

FM: PLI for chemicals, petrochem on the cards

SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 27 July

The government is considering a separate production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for chemicals and petrochemicals, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday.

Global manufacturers are interested in India where the sector is linked to 80,000 products, she said at the third Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hub summit organised by industry association Ficci.

"We are in favour of India becoming a manufacturing hub, and therefore of course we will consider a PLI scheme also for chemicals and petrochemicals."

The Centre has allowed 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector and unregulated it except for hazardous materials. The specialty chemicals sector had a 12 per cent compound annual growth rate between 2020 and 2025, helped by the strong engineering capabilities, low-cost manufacturing and abundant manpower, she said.

"Given how global manufacturers are looking to diversify their products and capabilities, India stands out as a market with a huge domestic demand as well as export possibilities"

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
Finance Minister

Specialty chemicals comprise 22 per cent of India's petrochemicals sector and it is valued at $32 billion. "Given how global manufacturers are looking to diversify their products and capabilities, India stands out as not only a market with a huge domestic demand as well as export possibilities," said Sitharaman.

The FM said Indian companies in the sector had to improve their standards in sustainability before they can work with global peers. "It's important to have your recycling and reusability elements high on your agenda," Sitharaman said.

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 17, Size:(12.85)cms X (13.03)cms.

BID TO MAKE INDIA A MANUFACTURING HUB

FM: PLI Scheme Likely for Chemicals & Petrochem

Says global firms in chemicals sector want to diversify their production

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday said the government is considering a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the chemicals and petrochemicals sector to promote manufacturing and to reduce import dependency. "We are in favour of having India becoming a manufacturing hub and therefore of course we will consider the PLI also for the chemicals and petrochemicals," Sitharaman said at the 'Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India' summit, organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry's (Ficci).

She said global manufacturers in the chemical industry are looking to diversify their production capabilities and India stands out as an alternative destination for manufacturing. The minister said the government is focussed on green growth and industry should keep in view energy efficiency and renewable energy commitments of India and the Hydrogen Mission.

"We should remember that India has set its sights on becoming energy independent by 2047 and achieving net zero by 2070. So net zero cannot be achieved unless each industry and each sector contributes to it. "We are very focused on green growth. Carbon intensity has to be reduced and therefore each one of the sectors will have to contribute to this," she said.

The government has approved a ₹19,744-crore incentive plan to promote the manufacturing of green hydrogen in the country in a bid to cut emissions. The National Green Hydrogen Mission seeks to promote development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 million metric tonnes per annum and renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country by 2030. Sitharaman added that the potential and size of the chemicals and petrochemicals industry makes a big impact on the economy. She said that as big petrochemical companies are looking at partnership with India, the industry must raise their standards in terms of sustainability recycling, skilling and technology adoption.

TIMES OF INDIA, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 23, Size:(14.62)cms X (11.11)cms.

Govt may extend PLI scheme to chem, petrochem, says FM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the government will consider extending the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to chemicals and petrochemicals, with an eye to make India a manufacturing base for these products.

Given the stringent regulations and rising labour cost, international players in the space are looking to diversify their products and production capability and India could be an alternative destination for manufacturing, the minister said at an event organised by Ficci.

"If viable options exist, it exists in such markets where there is a domestic buffer and beyond which there is an export potential. So that is where the government's policies have been facilitating... We are in favour of having India become a manufacturing hub and therefore of course we will consider the PLI also for the chemicals and petrochemicals," she said.

Key Sectors Under Incentive Scheme

- Automobile and auto components
- Drones and drone components
- Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC), Battery Storage
- Electronics manufacturing and IT hardware
- Food processing industry
- Medical devices
- Specialty steel
- **Pharma** | Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)
- High Efficiency Solar PV modules
- Telecom & networking products
- Production of MMF apparel, MMF fabrics and products of technical textiles
- White goods

Source: Invest India

While the government had originally identified 13 sectors under the Rs 2 lakh crore scheme, spread over five years, the number of industries covered is on the rise, with toys, leather and e-bikes joining the list amid a clamour from sectors across the spectrum to get a share of the government subsidy, provided there is certain scale.

Among the chemicals sector, pharma is already covered by PLI and the first batch of incentives given to the sector have already taken off. The proliferation of PLI across sectors will result in the government having to either increase the budgetary allocation or use the savings from the ones that have already been announced.

In case of chemicals and petrochem, the FM said that the industry, which has great potential, should create manufacturing capacity, keeping in mind sustainability, carbon emission, general pollution and groundwater pollution etc. "India has set its sights on becoming energy independent by 2047 and achieving net zero by 2070. So net zero cannot be achieved unless each industry and each sector contributes to it," she said.

MINT, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 2, Size:(15.03)cms X (18.10)cms.

Govt may offer PLI for chemicals, petrochem

Help on cards for sector facing challenges on pollution, skilling, labour

Rhik Kundu
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NEW DELHI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. PTI

The government will consider a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the chemicals and petrochemicals sector as it strives to emerge as a manufacturing hub, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday.

"We are in favour of making India a manufacturing hub," Sitharaman said at the third edition of the Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India Summit organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) in association with the ministry of chemicals and fertilizers . "We will be considering PLI for chemicals and petrochemicals," said the finance minister.

The PLI scheme is a government initiative, offering performance-based incentives to companies on incremental sales of domestically manufactured products. Its primary objective is to boost the manufacturing sector and reduce import reliance.

Sitharaman said the chemicals and petrochemicals sector has a significant impact on India's economy, but is confronted with several pressing challenges requiring immediate attention. These challenges include issues related to pollution control regulation, rising labour costs, collaterals, skill development, sustainability, and the reduction of carbon emissions, she said. "Net Zero cannot be achieved unless each industry contributes to it," she said.

2070
India's target year to be net zero in carbon emissions

"We are very focused on green growth. Carbon intensity must be reduced and, therefore, each one of the sectors will have to contribute to this," she said, adding that all sectors will have to work toward achieving net-zero emission and fulfil energy targets.

India has set a deadline to achieve net-zero by 2070, or cutting greenhouse gas emissions to zero. It also seeks energy independence by 2047 through the use of clean technologies.

Sitharaman said the chemicals and petrochemicals industry requires immense skilling to make more progress in research and development (R&D) and adopt Industry 4.0 standards. "You have to ensure the sustainability of products and processes you produce," she added.

According to McKinsey & Co., Industry 4.0 (Fourth Industrial Revolution, or 4IR), is the next phase of digitization for the manufacturing sector driven by disruptive trends, including data and connectivity, human-machine interaction, analytics and improvements in robotics.

'Govt to consider PLI for chemicals, petchem sector'

Energy efficiency and renewable energy commitments of India are also very important, Nirmala Sitharaman said

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the government will consider the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Chemicals and Petrochemicals sector to make India a manufacturing hub for such products.

In view of stringent pollution control regulations and rising labour cost, she said, global manufacturers in the chemical industry are looking at diversifying their products and production capability and India stands out as an alternative destination for manufacturing.

Besides, India offers a large domestic market, she said while addressing the third edition of the summit on 'Global Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India'.

"If viable options exist, it exists in such markets where there is a domestic buffer and beyond which there is an export potential. So that is where the government's policies have been facilitating," she said.

"We are in favour of having India becoming a manufacturing hub and therefore of course we will consider the PLI also for the chemicals and petrochemicals," she added. She emphasised that the industry which has great potential should create manufacturing capacity keeping in mind sustainability, carbon emission, general pollution and groundwater pollution etc.

She emphasised that the industry which has great potential should create manufacturing capacity keeping in mind sustainability, carbon emission, general pollution and groundwater pollution etc

"We should remember that India has set its sights on becoming energy independent by 2047 and achieving net zero by 2070. So net zero cannot be achieved unless each industry and each sector contributes to it.

"We are very focused on green growth. Carbon intensity has to be reduced and therefore each one of the sectors will have to contribute to this," she said.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy commitments of India are also very important, she said, adding, India Inc should keep that in mind the Net Zero goal of India and 500 gigawatts of installed electricity capacities from non fossil fuel sources. The Hydrogen Mission is also something which she urged industry to keep in mind.

The government has approved a Rs 19,744-crore incentive plan to promote the manufacturing of green hydrogen in the country in a bid to cut emissions.

The National Green Hydrogen Mission seeks to promote development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country by 2030.

Highlighting four challenges — sustainability, recycling or becoming circular economy, skilling and technology adoption, she said, if Indian manufacturers focus on these issues, global investors would actively look at parking their money or forging joint ventures with Indian partners in chemicals and petrochemicals industry.

With regard to the industry's task of addressing the issue of inverted duty structure on some of their items, the finance minister said, inversion on an item if corrected can have collateral somewhere.

Inversion of duty is a great concern for industry but it should be in a holistic fashion, she said, adding, she would welcome suggestions in this respect and the ministry will look at them.

India aims to achive 5% bio-diesel blending in diesel by 2030, says MoS Rameswar Teli

SIMONTINI BHATTACHARJEE

NEW DELHI: In a resolute stride towards a greener and more sustainable future, India has set a significant target of achieving a 5 per cent blending of bio-diesel in diesel or direct sale of bio-diesel by 2030, as outlined in the National Policy on Biofuels-2018. Junior Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Rameswar Teli informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday that the move aims to reduce the country's reliance on traditional fossil fuels and promote cleaner energy alternatives.

Teli underlined in a written reply to the Lower House that the National Policy on Biofuels-2018 has already identified key feedstocks, including non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil (UCO), animal tallow, acid oil, and others, for the production of bio-diesel, ensuring a diverse and sustainable approach to biofuel production. Presently, India boasts sixty-one operational bio-diesel plants registered with Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies. These plants, strategically located in the private sector, have been actively contributing to the supply of bio-diesel generated from a wide array of feedstocks.

While progress has been substantial, there is currently no proposal for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in the manufacturing of bio-diesel, the MoS added. However, industry experts believe that fostering partnerships between the public and private sectors could unlock significant potential for further advancements and expansion in the biofuels sector. Such collaborations could accelerate research, technology, and investment in the production of bio-diesel, contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable energy landscape.

Even earlier the centre informed that India's pursuit of bio-diesel blending and adoption is not only a testament to its commitment to environmental conservation but also a strategic step towards enhancing energy security. By reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change, the country aims to secure a healthier and more sustainable future for its citizens. The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 has laid a robust foundation for the bio-diesel industry, setting the stage for the exploration of alternative energy sources while simultaneously promoting agricultural diversification. The Modi government emphasised that the cultivation of non-edible oilseeds and other feedstocks provides an opportunity for farmers to diversify their income streams and strengthen the agricultural sector. As the world grapples with the escalating concerns of climate change and global warming, the government's dedication to cleaner energy alternatives and sustainable development demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change.

Moreover, with its eye firmly set on a greener future, India marches forward with determination, poised to set a remarkable example for the global community in the fight against climate change and the quest for a sustainable planet.

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 9, Size:(25.81)cms X (1.76)cms.

India's refining capacity to increase by 56 MMTPA by 2028, says Minister

Ministry's long-term vision is aimed at achieving energy security, reducing dependence on fossil fuels & mitigating impact of climate change on country

SIMONTINI BHATTACHARJEE

NEW DELHI: The Indian government has projected a significant increase in the country's refining capacity to meet the growing demand for petroleum products. The Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Rameswar Teli informed on Thursday that Indian refineries are set to witness a surge of about 56 Million Metric Tons Per Annum (MMTPA) by the year 2028. The current refining capacity stands at 253.92 MMTPA.

The data compiled by the Centre for High Technology (CHT), a technical wing of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry, reveals this optimistic projection, considering the long-term growth trends in the consumption of petrol and diesel. The junior minister of the Modi government also mentioned in his reply in Lok Sabha that despite various efforts by the government towards energy transition, including increasing adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), biofuels such as Ethanol, and Electric Vehicles (EV), the government believes that this capacity boost will be sufficient to meet the projected demand.

The domestic consumption of petroleum products in the fiscal year 2022-23 was recorded at 223 MMTPA. With a clear focus on sustainable practices and an evolving shift in consumer preferences, the government remains confident in addressing the country's energy needs.

The surge in refining capacity comes as the nation strives to cater to its ever-increasing energy requirements while also acknowledging the need to explore and adopt greener alternatives. Embracing renewable energy sources and promoting eco-friendly practices have been at the forefront of the government's energy policy, aligning with global efforts to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

Speaking about the government's vision for the energy sector, Teli also emphasized, "We are committed to fostering an ecosystem that supports clean energy solutions without compromising on the nation's energy security. Our focus is on striking the right balance between conventional fuels and sustainable energy sources to ensure a brighter and greener future for India."

The projection of increased refining capacity sends a positive signal to investors and stakeholders, reflecting the government's proactive approach towards energy planning and management. The Ministry's long-term vision is aimed at achieving energy security, reducing dependence on fossil fuels, and mitigating the impact of climate change on the country.

Time and again the centre has assured that as the refining sector gears up for a transformative phase, the government remains committed to embracing innovation, sustainable practices, and green technologies to safeguard the nation's energy future while contributing to global efforts in building a more sustainable planet.

BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 2, Size:(2.99)cms X (7.18)cms.

QUICKLY.

Manali Petrochemicals' arm names Tobias Tasche as CEO

Chennai: PennWhite Ltd, a UK-based speciality chemicals manufacturer and a subsidiary of Manali Petrochemicals Ltd (MPL), has appointed Tobias Tasche as the Chief Executive Officer of the company with effect from July 24. PennWhite Ltd is Middlewich (UK)-based manufacturer of antifoam chemistry under FoamDoctor brand which is sold in more than 50 countries. OUR BUREAU

TIMES OF INDIA, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 23, Size:(3.84)cms X (12.21)cms.

ONGC offers one-time settlement to end disputes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: ONGC has launched a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme under the Centre's 'Vivad se Vishwas-2' initiative for resolving pending contractual disputes, a move that could end nearly 100 cases involving Rs 1,000 crore in stuck payments.

The settlement criteria envisages 85% of the net amount to be awarded in disputes where court order has been passed on or before April 30 this year. In cases where an arbitral award has been passed on or before January, the settlement amount is set at 65% of the net amount to be awarded.

ONGC awards contracts worth over Rs 30,000 crore annually. It has constituted an internal task force for fast-track clearance of applications under the OTS scheme. The scheme is open till October 31. Settlement applications are to be through the GeM portal. The move is being seen as a win-win for both ONGC and contractors.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 5, Size:(21.88)cms X (30.94)cms.

ARAMCO, ROSNEFT LOOKING FOR JVs

Petrochemicals get a PLI boost

Scheme in the works, envisages trade surplus: FM

PRASANTA SAHU
New Delhi, July 27

THE CENTRE WILL consider a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the mammoth chemicals & petrochemicals sector to make India a manufacturing hub of various products in the value chain, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday.

Speaking at an event organised by Ficci here, the minister stressed the need for import substitution in the sector, and turning the current trade deficit into a substantial surplus.

The market size of the India's chemicals and petrochemicals sector is currently valued at over $190 billion, and is projected to grow at 9-10% (CAGR). Specialty chemicals, a key segment of the industry, is seen growing at a higher rate of 12%.

The minister noted that global biggies in the sector such as Aramco of Saudi Arabia, BASF, Rosneft, ADNOC and Borealis are all scouting for joint ventures in India. To take advantage of the opportunities, the industry should address issues related to the sustainability of the products and processes, the immense need for skilling, the need to adopt "Industry 4.0" in a very big way and pollution control measures, the minister said.

Industry 4.0 refers to transforming the whole process of manufacture and distribution of products with the use of new technologies, including Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing and analytics, as well as AI and machine learning.

The combined exports of major chemicals and petrochemicals in H1 2022-23 was $9 billion while imports were at $13.33 billion.

Continued on Page 14

GLOBAL CHEMICAL HUB

- Currently 14 PLI schemes cover automobiles and auto components, pharmaceuticals drugs, specialty steel, telecom etc
- The specialty chemicals market has been growing exponentially with the industry in India projected to grow at 12% CAGR
- It represents 22% of India's overall chemicals and petrochemicals market and is valued at $32 billion

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN,
FINANCE MINISTER

We are in favour of India becoming a global manufacturing hub. Therefore, we will consider PLI for chemicals and petrochemicals

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 5, Size:(21.88)cms X (30.94)cms.

Petrochemicals get a PLI boost

"I am quite comfortable with this but many of these imports are items which can be produced in India itself and there are some efforts in that direction as well," Sitharaman added.

Analysts see the potential for over a dozen more world-scale petrochemical cracker capacities in India to meet the rising domestic demand for products in the value chain and cater to the rising export markets.

The PLI policy was first announced in the Budget 2021-22. Currently, there are 14 PLI schemes covering an array of sectors, from mobile manufacturing, white goods, auto & auto components, solar PV modules to drones & drone components. However, out of the total incentive outlay of about ₹2 trillion over 5-6 years, the utilisation has been just around ₹3,000 crore so far, due to delays in execution of many PLIs. Hence, the government has scope to add more PLI schemes without burdening the exchequer.

Sitharaman said within three years, the specialty chemicals industry is going to reach a very significant level and the government understands the need for more robust support for the industry. India's specialty chemicals market is currently valued at $32 billion.

The minister, however, cautioned that the domestic partner should be conscious of the issue of sustainability and should try to become a circular industry. If the sustainability issues are actively shared with the government, "we can take some decisions to facilitate a rapid shift towards such technologies which will help in building a sustainable industry," Sitharaman said. The minister said that the importance of the sector can be gauged from the fact that it manufactures 80,000 products which are used across sectors and in everyday life.

Global manufacturers are looking to diversify their products and production capabilities. "Therefore, if the world is looking for an alternative destination, India stands out, but India stands also because we have a large domestic market," the minister said.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 12, Size:(6.40)cms X (13.72)cms.

The harsh truth: We're using more oil than ever

The planet is getting hotter by the day, but we can't slake our thirst for crude

In this age of climate crisis, the world is consuming more crude than ever. Peak oil demand? Not yet. Maybe one day, perhaps even soon, around 2030. For now, however, the global economy still runs on oil. It will take a while before governments certify it, but every piece of data points in the very same direction: In the past few weeks, global oil demand has surpassed the monthly peak set in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Expressed in barrels a day, the fresh record high in global oil consumption totals about 102.5 million, likely hit in the last few weeks in July and above the 102.3 million of August 2019. Picture this: We use enough crude to fill about 6,500 Olympic-size swimming pools every day. More than a third of those swimming pools would be needed to quench the thirst of two countries: the US and China. It's not unexpected. The International Energy Agency, which compiles benchmark supply and demand statistics, has anticipated it for months. It was just a question of timing, since oil demand surges during the northern hemisphere summer, when millions of European and American families guzzle gasoline and jet fuel during their holidays. The wholesale cost of refined products, such as gasoline, is surging too.

JAVIER BLAS
Bloomberg

Granted, the new demand milestone is just one flimsy data point. Global oil consumption statistics are routinely revised, and a final figure probably won't be set in stone until next year, or even 2025. The margin of error is relatively wide, too, probably at least 1 million barrels a day. But experience indicates that demand is typically revised higher, rather than lower. So far, we have only partial numbers for May and June, and directional evidence for July. Extrapolating from earlier this year, the fresh information, including real-time traffic congestion in multiple countries and global airline travel, suggests that global oil demand went above the pre-Covid peak recently, even when considering the margin of error.

We do have much better information for the January-to-April period. Global oil demand averaged 100.8 million barrels a day during the first four months of 2023, above the same period in 2019, when the average was 99.9 million, according to my calculations based on monthly data from the IEA. Ironically, gasoline, the fuel that's first to suffer from the rise of electric vehicles, is playing a leading role boosting demand. Only a few months ago, the conventional wisdom said that 2019 marked the peak in gasoline consumption. Now, it increasingly looks like gasoline demand will — at the very least — match the pre-pandemic high.

Gasoline is benefiting from three factors: Even with the boom in electric cars, the absolute number of gasoline-powered cars is still increasing; consumers are holding onto their vehicles longer, delaying the improvement that comes with newer and more fuel efficient models; and in Europe, consumers have swapped their diesel cars for gasoline ones, giving the latter an unlikely boost. The IEA has called the recent surge in gasoline consumption a "swan song" – perhaps, but the fuel's obituary has been written before. No matter what happens next with autos, what's clear is that under current trends, global oil demand will increase a further 3% to 4%the next five years, before settling at a high plateau. For now, there's no sign that consumption will drop off a cliff any time soon.

I'd like to be proved wrong, but currently there's no chance that the world will reduce oil consumption by 2030 nearly as much as needed to meet its net-zero emissions targets. And that's why many Western governments, while preaching green in public, in private tell oil executives to keep investing in more production.

ओएनजीसी ने शुरू की विवाद से विश्वास योजना

नई दिल्ली : सरकारी तेल एवं गैस कंपनी ओएनजीसी ने सरकार की एकमुश्त निपटान योजना 'विवाद से विश्वास-2' को अंजाम देने की दिशा में कदम बढ़ाया है। इससे कंपनी तरह-तरह के विवादों का तेजी से समाधान कर सकेगी। यह योजना 15 जुलाई से 31 अक्टूबर 2023 तक चलेगी। ओएनजीसी का कहना है कि वह एक हजार करोड़ रुपये के विवादों का निपटान इसके जरिये कर सकेगी। (जाब्यू)

VEER ARJUN, Delhi, 28.7.2023
Page No. 11, Size:(21.87)cms X (30.94)cms.

ओएनजीसी विवाद से विश्वस-2 योजना लागू करने में जुटी

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम एवं गैस कंपनी ओएनजीसी अनुबंधों से जुड़े विवादों के त्वरित समाधान के लिए घोषित एकमुश्त विवाद समाधान योजना विवाद से विश्वस-2 को लागू करने में जुट गई है।

ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) ने बयान में कहा कि उसने अनुबंध से संबंधित विवादों के त्वरित समाधान के लिए एक आंतरिक कार्यबल का गठन किया है। ओएनजीसी ने कहा कि समाधान योजना के तहत 30 अप्रैल के पहले या उस तारीख तक अदालती आदेश पारित हो चुके मामलों में बकाया राशि के 85 प्रतिशत का भुगतान कर दिया जाएगा जबकि 31 जनवरी तक या उसके पहले आए मध्यस्थता निर्णयों के मामलों में 65 प्रतिशत राशि का भुगतान होगा।

सरकार ने अनुबंधों से जुड़े लंबित विवादों के निपटान के लिए एकमुश्त समाधान योजना विवाद से विश्वस-2 लाने की घोषणा की थी। इसके लिए जीईएम के पोर्टल पर ठेकेदारों को आवेदन करना होगा। यह योजना 15 जुलाई से 31 अक्टूबर तक वैध है।

VIRAT VAIBHAV, Delhi, 28.7.2023
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ओएनजीसी विवाद से विश्वास-2 योजना लागू करने में जुटी

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम एवं गैस कंपनी ओएनजीसी अनुबंधों से जुड़े विवादों के त्वरित समाधान के लिए घोषित एकमुश्त विवाद समाधान योजना विवाद से विश्वास-2 को लागू करने में जुट गई है। ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन ने बयान में कहा कि उसने अनुबंध से संबंधित विवादों के त्वरित समाधान के लिए एक आंतरिक कार्यबल का गठन किया है। ओएनजीसी ने कहा कि समाधान योजना के तहत 30 अप्रैल के पहले या उस तारीख तक अदालती आदेश पारित हो चुके मामलों में बकाया राशि के 85 प्रतिशत का भुगतान कर दिया जाएगा जबकि 31 जनवरी तक या उसके पहले आए मध्यस्थता निर्णयों के मामलों में 65 प्रतिशत राशि का भुगतान होगा। सरकार ने अनुबंधों से जुड़े लंबित विवादों के निपटान के लिए एकमुश्त समाधान योजना विवाद से विश्वास-2 लाने की घोषणा की थी। इसके लिए जीईएम के पोर्टल पर ठेकेदारों को आवेदन करना होगा। यह योजना 15 जुलाई से 31 अक्टूबर तक वैध है। ओएनजीसी ने कहा कि उसने अपने कारोबारी साझेदारों के साथ मजबूत एवं पारदर्शी रिश्ते बनाने के लिए कई कदम उठाए गए हैं।

चावल, इथेनॉल और खाद्य सुरक्षा

देश में चावल की बढ़ती कीमतों को देखकर सरकार एक के बाद एक कदम उठा रही है। हाल ही में सरकार ने एक बड़ा ऐलान करते हुए गैर बासमती सफेद चावल के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया था। इसी तरह का निर्णय अब इथेनॉल बनाने के लिए डिस्टिलरी कम्पनियों को सप्लाई किए जाने वाले एफसीआई चावल की सप्लाई को लेकर किया गया है। भारतीय खाद्य निगम ने एक फैसला लेते हुए इथेनॉल के उत्पादन के लिए चावल की सप्लाई रोक दी। राज्य सरकारों को भी कहा गया है कि वे इथेनॉल उत्पादन के लिए खुले बाजार के अन्तर्गत भारतीय खाद्य निगम का चावल नहीं खरीदें। सरकार एफसीआई के जरिये सरप्लस चावल डिस्टिलरी कम्पनियों को सप्लाई करती है। इस महीने घरेलू बाजार में चावल के दामों में 10 से 20 फीसदी तक उछाल देखा गया। देश में पिछले कुछ समय से गेहूं, चावल और सब्जियों की कीमतों में बेतहाशा वृद्धि हो रही है। देश का काफी हिस्सा बाढ़ से प्रभावित है लेकिन कुछ राज्य ऐसे भी हैं जहां औसत से कम बारिश हो रही है। धान का कटोरा समझे जाने वाले राज्यों पश्चिम बंगाल, महाराष्ट्र और कर्नाटक जैसे राज्यों में धान की कम बुआई हुई है।

पश्चिम बंगाल धान की पैदावार करने वाला बड़ा उत्पादक राज्य है। भारत दुनिया में दूसरा सबसे बड़ा चावल का निर्यातक है। पिछले साल सितम्बर में भारत ने टुकड़ा चावल के निर्यात पर रोक लगा दी थी। साथ ही कई तरह के चावल के निर्यात पर अतिरिक्त 20 प्रतिशत ड्यूटी लगा दी थी। इस वर्ष केन्द्र सरकार पैट्रोल में इथेनॉल मिलाकर देश के ईंधन आयात बिल कम करने की कोशिशें कर रही थी। देश की करीब 100 डिस्टिलरिज को चावल की सप्लाई एफसीआई से खरीद कर की जाती है, फिर उसे स्टार्च में परिवर्तित किया जाता है और इसके साथ इथेनॉल के लिए संशोधित किया जाता है। जैव ईंधन पर केन्द्र की राष्ट्रीय नीति के तहत सरकार ने वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 तक पैट्रोल में 20 प्रतिशत इथेनॉल मिश्रण करने की योजना बनाई है। एफसीआई इथेनॉल उत्पादकों को 20 रुपए प्रति किलो पर चावल की आपूर्ति करता है जो मौजूदा बाजार मूल्य 30 रुपए से काफी कम है। एक अनुमान के मुताबिक एफसीआई द्वारा इथेनॉल के लिए सलाना 15 लाख टन चावल की आपूर्ति की जाती है। चालू वर्ष की 1 जुलाई तक सरकार के पास 4.10 करोड़ टन चावल का भंडार था जो उस अवधि में 1.35 करोड़ टन की बफर आवश्यकता से कम है। अब चावल की सप्लाई रोक दिए जाने से इथेनॉल बनाने वाली कम्पनियों के सामने संकट पैदा हो गया है। डिस्टिलरी कम्पनियां खांड व शीरे से इथेनॉल बनाती हैं। जो चीनी का एक बाई प्रोडक्ट है।

जैव ईंधन पर केन्द्र की राष्ट्रीय नीति के तहत सरकार ने वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 तक पैट्रोल में 20 प्रतिशत इथेनॉल मिश्रण करने की योजना बनाई है। एफसीआई इथेनॉल उत्पादकों को 20 रुपए प्रति किलो पर चावल की आपूर्ति करता है जो मौजूदा बाजार मूल्य 30 रुपए से काफी कम है। एक अनुमान के मुताबिक एफसीआई द्वारा इथेनॉल के लिए सलाना 15 लाख टन चावल की आपूर्ति की जाती है। चालू वर्ष की 1 जुलाई तक सरकार के पास 4.10 करोड़ टन चावल का भंडार था जो उस अवधि में 1.35 करोड़ टन की बफर आवश्यकता से कम है। अब चावल की सप्लाई रोक दिए जाने से इथेनॉल बनाने वाली कम्पनियों के सामने संकट पैदा हो गया है। डिस्टिलरी कम्पनियां खांड व शीरे से इथेनॉल बनाती हैं। जो चीनी का एक बाई प्रोडक्ट है।

हालांकि इससे इथेनॉल बनाने का लक्ष्य प्राप्त नहीं किया जा सकता, इसलिए इथेनॉल बनाने के लिए चावल, मक्का और टूटे अनाज का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। पैट्रोल की कीमतों का कम होना एक महत्वपूर्ण योजना है लेकिन सबसे बड़ा सवाल खाद्य सुरक्षा का है। अगर लोगों को खाने के लिए चावल और अन्य खाद्यान्न ही नहीं मिले तो अफरातफरी का माहौल पैदा हो सकता है। सबसे बड़ी बात यह भी है कि अब त्यौहारी सीजन शुरू होने वाला है और त्यौहारों के दिनों में हर चीज की डिमांड बढ़ जाती है। अब कुछ राज्यों के चुनाव भी निकट हैं, इसलिए सरकार महंगाई को कम करने के लिए हर सम्भव प्रयास कर रही है।

भारत के चावल निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध से अमेरिकी नागरिकों, विशेषकर अनिवासी भारतीयों के लिए चावल प्राप्त करना मुश्किल हो गया है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अमेरिका में रहने वाले भारतीयों द्वारा चावल की हड़बड़ी में खरीदारी को देखते हुए स्टोर प्रबंधकों को चावल की आपूर्ति सीमित करने के लिए मजबूर किया गया है और प्रति व्यक्ति केवल एक निश्चित मात्रा में चावल दिया जा रहा है। अमेरिका में कई दुकानों में चावल के स्टॉक खाली होने की तस्वीरें सोशल मीडिया पर भी आई हैं। इतना ही नहीं चावल के लिए भी ग्राहकों की लाइन लगी हुई है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि दुकानों के बाहर नोटिस भी लगाए गए थे कि प्रति परिवार केवल एक बैग चावल दिया जाएगा।

अमेरिका ही नहीं कनाडा और कुछ अन्य देशों में भी भारतीय रिटेल स्टोर्स में चावल के शैल्फ खाली दिखाई दे रहे हैं। किराना की दुकानों पर लम्बी-लम्बी कतारें देखी जा रही हैं। मोटा चावल तो क्या बासमती चावल भी वहां नहीं मिल रहा। इन देशों में रहने वाले भारतीयों ने जहां से भी चावल मिला उसे खरीद कर स्टॉक कर लिया। इससे अफरातफरी का माहौल है। अब सवाल यह है कि सरकार के सामने घरेलू बाजार में खाद्यान्न की उपलब्धता बड़ी चुनौती है। विदेशों में दक्षिण भारतीय आज भी रोजाना चावल का ही सेवन करते हैं। इसी कारण वहां चावल की कीमतों में बढ़ौतरी हो रही है। नई फसल आने के बाद ही स्थिति सामान्य होने की उम्मीद है।

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रसायन व पेट्रोरसायन क्षेत्र के लिए आ सकती है PLI योजना

■ भारत को इन उत्पादों का विनिर्माण केंद्र बनाना चाहती है सरकार : निर्मला

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा है कि सरकार रसायन और पेट्रोरसायन क्षेत्र के लिए उत्पादन से जुड़ी प्रोत्साहन (पीएलआई) योजना पर विचार करेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार का इरादा भारत को इन उत्पादों का विनिर्माण केंद्र बनाने का है। वित्त मंत्री ने कहा कि प्रदूषण नियंत्रण के कड़े नियमों और श्रम की बढ़ती लागत के मद्देनजर रसायन उद्योग के वैश्विक विनिर्माता अपने उत्पादों और उत्पादन क्षमता में विविधता लाने पर विचार कर रहे हैं और भारत विनिर्माण के लिए एक वैकल्पिक गंतव्य के रूप में उभर रहा है।

उन्होंने 'भारत में वैश्विक रसायन और पेट्रोरसायन विनिर्माण केंद्र' विषय पर शिखर सम्मेलन के तीसरे संस्करण को संबोधित करते हुए बृहस्पतिवार को यहां कहा कि इसके अलावा भारत एक बड़ा घरेलू बाजार भी प्रदान करता है। उन्होंने कहा, 'हम भारत को विनिर्माण केंद्र बनाना चाहते हैं। इसलिए हम रसायन और पेट्रोरसायन पर पीएलआई योजना लाने पर विचार करेंगे।' सीतारमण ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि जिस उद्योग में व्यापक संभावनाएं हैं, उसे स्थिरता, कार्बन उत्सर्जन, सामान्य प्रदूषण और भूजल प्रदूषण को ध्यान में रखकर विनिर्माण क्षमता का निर्माण करना चाहिए।

वित्त मंत्री ने कहा, 'हमें याद रखना है कि भारत ने 2047 तक ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता हासिल करने और 2070 तक शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन का लक्ष्य रखा है। यह लक्ष्य तब तक हासिल नहीं हो सकता, जब तक कि सभी उद्योग और सभी क्षेत्र इसमें अपना योगदान नहीं दें।' सीतारमण ने कहा, 'हम हरित वृद्धि पर ध्यान दे रहे हैं। कार्बन गहनता को कम करने की जरूरत है। ऐसे में प्रत्येक क्षेत्र को इसमें योगदान देना होगा।'

उन्होंने कहा कि भारत की ऊर्जा दक्षता और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा प्रतिबद्धताएं भी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं। भारतीय उद्योग जगत को शुद्ध शून्य उत्सर्जन और गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन स्रोतों से 500 गीगावाट की स्थापित बिजली क्षमता के लक्ष्य को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए। उन्होंने उद्योग जगत से हाइड्रोजन मिशन पर भी ध्यान देने का आग्रह किया। सरकार ने उत्सर्जन में कटौती के लिए हरित हाइड्रोजन के विनिर्माण को प्रोत्साहन देने को 19,744 करोड़ रुपए की प्रोत्साहन योजना को मंजूरी दी है।