FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 30.3.2023
Page No. 2, Size:(13.63)cms X (16.77)cms.

ONGC oil output from KG block begins in May

ONGC'S DELAYED KRISHNA Godavari basin KG-D5 project is likely to start crude oil production in May this year and gas output a year later, a senior company official said.

ONGC was originally to start gas production from Cluster-II fields in block KG-DWN-98/2 (KG-D5) in June 2019 and the first oil was to flow in March 2020.

PTI

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 30.3.2023
Page No. 6, Size:(13.51)cms X (12.57)cms.

Unified tariff plan for over 12 gas pipelines from Apr 1

More than a dozen gas pipelines, which form the national gas grid, will come under a unified tariff structure from April 1, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) said on Wednesday.

Business Standard reported in February the government's decision to roll out the new regime by April after months of deliberations. PNGRB has notified a levelised unified tariff of ₹73.93 per metric million British thermal unit, based on the principle of 'one nation, one grid and one tariff'. The new tariff is expected to benefit customers transporting fuel over longer distances and multiple pipelines. Currently, customers pay additional tariffs for using multiple and inter-connected pipelines. Under the new regime, buyers will be charged a fixed tariff for the transport of gas over three zones, up from two earlier. This includes transportation of gas within 300 km of a source (gas field or Liquefied natural gas import terminal), 300-1200 km and beyond 1,200 km. SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 30.3.2023
Page No. 6, Size:(13.63)cms X (20.23)cms.

Rosneft signs off pact to boost oil supplies to India

REUTERS
New Delhi, 29 March

Russia's largest oil producer Rosneft and Indian Oil Corp have signed a term agreement to substantially increase oil supplies and diversify oil grades delivered to India, Rosneft said on Wednesday.

The deal was signed during Rosneft CEO Igor Sechin's working trip to India

The deal was signed during a working trip to India by Rosneft CEO Igor Sechin, the company said. It did not reveal the details of the agreement.

"The parties also discussed ways of expanding cooperation between Rosneft Oil Company and Indian companies in the entire value chain of the energy sector, including possibilities of making payments in national currencies," it added.

Russia has been rerouting its energy supplies from traditional markets in Europe, which imposed wide-ranging sanctions against Moscow following the start of what the Kremlin calls a special military operation in Ukraine last year.

India has been the biggest buyer of Russia's benchmark Urals grade crude in March. Deliveries to India are set to account for more than 50 per cent of all seaborne Urals exports this month, with China in second place.

Sector regulator approves unified tariff for natural gas

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

IN a move that could benefit the gas consumers in the country, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) on Wednesday amended the regulation pertaining to unified tariff for natural gas.

The regulatory body has notified a levelised unified tariff of ₹73.93/MMBTU. It has also created three tariff zones for unified tariff, where the first zone is up to a distance of 300 kms from gas source, second zone is 300 – 1,200 kms and third zone is beyond 1200 kms. The new tariffs will be effective from April 1, 2023. "The reform will specially benefit the consumers located in the far-flung areas where currently the additive tariff is applicable and facilitate development of gas markets and vision of government to increase the gas utilisation in the country," said the regulatory body in a press note.

Currently, the tariff is levied in proportion to the distance transported, which means longer the distance, the higher is the charge. In simple terms, currently consumers from far-flung areas or away from the coast are paying higher tariff.

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 30.3.2023
Page No. 13, Size:(29.62)cms X (8.15)cms.

'India to be Key Destination for Energy Transition Gear in 5 Yrs'

EXPANSION PLANS Country to have the highest number of Shell staff globally, says senior exec; Co has 11,000 employees in India spread across businesses

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New Delhi: India will become an important destination for sourcing energy transition equipment in five years, a top executive at energy giant Shell said, adding that the country will also have the highest number of Shell employees anywhere in the world in five years as the businesses grow.

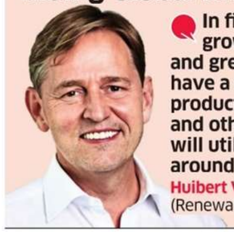
Shell has 11,000 employees in India spread across its fuel retail, gas, lubricant and technology businesses, with staff at the IT centre working to develop digital twins of the company's remote assets, and many others engaged in remote asset monitoring.

"In five years, India will be our largest employer," Huibert Vigeveno, director (renewables & downstream), Shell, told **ET** in an interview.

India will surpass the US, which has the highest number of Shell employees today, as the company's investments in the Indian energy sector grow and opportunities for global collaborations expand.

"In five years, we will have grown a lot in greener electrons and greener molecules," he said. Shell is beginning to make inroads into green energy in India, acquiring renewables business as well as partnering with a variety of customers to help them in their decarbonization efforts. It acquired renewable energy platform Sprng Energy in a $1.55 billion deal last year. It also opened its first EV charging facility last year and aims to set up 10,000 fast charging points by 2030.

Rising Global Impact



In five years, we will have grown a lot in greener electrons and greener molecules... India will have a lot to offer on sourcing of products and services, equipment and other activities, which we will utilise in the country, but also around the world

Huibert Vigeveno, Director (Renewables & Downstream), Shell

"India will have a lot to offer on sourcing of products and services, equipment and other activities, which we will utilise in the country, but also around the world," Vigeveno said.

The sourcing could be spread over the entire energy transition value chain from renewable energy to biofuels and electrolyzers. "India is distinctly emerging as an alternate sourcing destination for critical pieces of equipment," said Nitin Prasad, chairman, Shell Companies, India. "What's also happening in the energy transition is that you are looking at equipment which are much more suited to the Indian ecosystem and environment: more modular design, more oriented toward automation, robotics."

As it enhances its presence in the low-carbon sector, Shell has seen its interest wane in the refinery business. "If you look at 20 years ago, we used to have 55 refineries. If you look at early 2020, we had 16 refineries, and we are concentrating now on five refineries, which I'm transitioning to energy and chemical parks," Vigeveno said.

Shell didn't bid for Bharat Petroleum Corp (BPCL), a state-run refinery India planned to sell to the private sector. The government cancelled the sale plan last year due to poor investor interest.

Shell doesn't need refineries to support its fuel sales network, Vigeveno said. "You don't really require a refinery to be a very successful mobility provider. What you need is to have very strong logistics. You need terminals, depots, pipelines, trading capabilities," he said.

Shell operates about 350 fuel retail stations in India, a tiny share of the country's 86,000 pumps. "I don't think there is any lack of ambition," said Prasad. "This is not just a simple rebranding exercise. There's a construction cycle. It takes three years to build a station." Shell is expanding its presence to 128 cities and towns from only a handful a few years ago, he added.

Shell is keen on green hydrogen but is waiting for optimal demand to emerge before it can use its global capabilities to invest in this space in India. "We are working with the government to come back and put structures in place that will create the demand use cases, whether it's in mobility or on steel or in ammonia or in other sectors," Prasad said.

CITE TECHNICAL CONSTRAINTS AND COST WOES

Foreign Offshore Drilling Contractors Lobby Against New Safety Rules

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Mumbai: Foreign offshore oil drilling contractors operating in Indian waters are lobbying for reversing the latest maritime rules that mandate higher safety conditions for offshore vessels and accommodation barges, citing technical constraints and cost involved.

The rules, notified by the Directorate General of Shipping in October 2022, mandate mobile offshore drilling units, or MODUs, certified under the 1979 MODU code to upgrade to 1989 or 2009 code by October 2024.

"Any mobile offshore drilling unit participating in a tender after the issuance of this order (India or foreign) shall comply with the requirements of MODU code 1989 or 2009, depending on the year of construction/modification," the order said.

The rules were drafted after state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) Mumbai High oilfields reported 86 casualties when Cyclone Tauktae struck the west coast in 2021. Drilling industry insiders said none of the drilling rig owners have upgraded the rigs to the 1989 MODU code yet since it will cost a few million dollars.

"Instead of upgrading their drilling units to meet safety norms, the drilling contractors are busy lobbying for the rules to be reversed," said a senior industry official requesting anonymity. "Safety should not be compromised with."

In fact, International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC), a

Texas-based lobby group, has cited technical limitations to comply with the order. "IADC has grown concerned that new requirements contained within this order create a circumstance under which MODUs currently subject to, and in full

NEW CODE

The rules mandate mobile offshore drilling units certified under the 1979 MODU code to upgrade to 1989 or 2009 code by October 2024

compliance with, the 1979 MODU Code, may be compelled to undergo major modifications to meet 1989 or 2009 MODU Code provisions," IADC senior vice president – international development Mike DuBose wrote in a letter to the DG shipping.

"The integrity of a MODU's condition regardless of adherence to the 1979, 1989 or 2009 editions of the MODU Code can be confidently maintained in a fit for purpose manner as its satisfactory material condition can be regularly demonstrated through a comprehensive survey process," DuBose said.

ET has seen a copy of the letter. Industry players do not concur with IADC's stand.

"IADC upholds the highest offshore safety norms back home in the US. So, it is surprising when it does not think the same stringent safety measures are to be applied to and adhered to in Indian waters," said a senior industry official.

A senior official from Jindal Drilling said it would have been better if the DG Shipping had focused more on the safety aspect of the MODU code, instead of saying that the entire MODU code has to be changed.

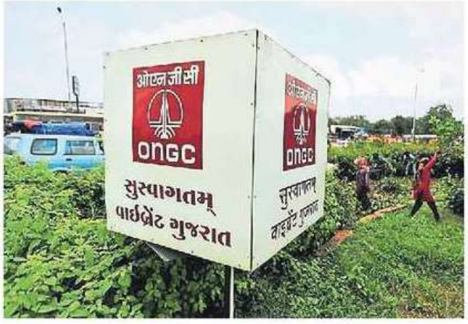
"We have one rig in this category, so we are not impacted much, but we still think that safety of human life should have been given emphasis," the official said. "Also, they could have given a timeline of five years instead of two for overhauling them."

Upgrading a 1979 MODU could cost \$1-3 million, the person said.

There are around 26 jack-up drilling rigs operating in Indian waters currently. Of these, six are owned by ONGC, certified under MODU Code of 1979. Rest 20 rigs are registered in overseas jurisdiction.

Though there is no age limit for offshore drilling rigs to operate, old rigs are considered less efficient, thereby impacting performance and production.

MINT, Delhi, 30.3.2023
Page No. 11, Size:(5.74)cms X (13.06)cms.



ONGC was originally to start oil production in March 2020. REUTERS

Oil from ONGC's KG block likely in May

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) delayed Krishna Godavari basin KG-D5 project is likely to start crude oil production in May this year and gas output a year later, a senior company official said. ONGC was originally to start gas production from Cluster-II fields in block KG-DWN-98/2 (KG-D5) in June 2019 and the first oil was to flow in March 2020. The company blamed contracting and supply chains issues due to the pandemic for shifting the start of oil production first to November 2021, then to third quarter of 2022 and now to May 2023. Gas output start target was first revised to May 2021, then to May 2023 and now to May 2024.

ONGC director (production) Pankaj Kumar said a floating production unit, called FPSO, which will be used to produce oil, is already in Indian waters. "We estimate oil production should start in May," he said. PTI

VEER ARJUN, Delhi, 30.3.2023
Page No. 11, Size:(21.88)cms X (30.88)cms.

भारत का व्यापारिक आयात 2022-23 में 700 अरब डॉलर के पार जाने का अनुमान : जीटीआरआई

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। चालू वित्त वर्ष में भारत का व्यापारिक आयात करीब 16 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 710 अरब डॉलर पर पहुंचने का अनुमान है। आर्थिक विचार समूह ग्लोबल ट्रेड रिसर्च इनिशिएटिव (जीटीआरआई) ने बुधवार को अपनी एक रिपोर्ट में कहा कि कच्चा तेल, कोयला, हीरा, रसायन एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स के आयात में वृद्धि इसकी वजह है।

जीटीआरआई ने कहा कि कमजोर वैश्विक मांग और बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में मंदी से भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था मामूली रूप से प्रभावित हो सकती है।

भारत के कुल व्यापारिक आयात में 82 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी छह उत्पाद श्रेणियों की है जिनमें हैं पेट्रोलियम, कच्चा तेल, कोयला, कोक, हीरा, कीमती धातु, रसायन, दवा, रबड़, प्लास्टिक, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और मशीनरी। जीटीआरआई के सह-संस्थापक अजय श्रीवास्तव ने कहा, मार्च 2023 में खत्म होने जा रहे चालू वित्त वर्ष में भारत का व्यापारिक आयात 710 अरब डॉलर को छू सकता है। यह 2021-22 के 613 अरब डॉलर की तुलना में करीब 15.8 प्रतिशत अधिक है। श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि पेट्रोलियम आयात का अनुमानित मूल्य 210 अरब डॉलर होगा और इसमें कच्चा तेल तथा एलपीजी भी शामिल है।

NAVBHARAT TIMES, Mumbai, 30.3.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(5.24)cms X (7.28)cms.

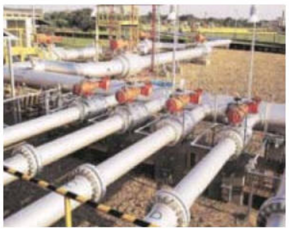
KG ब्लॉक में मई से ONGC करेगा उत्पादन

■ भाषा, नई दिल्ली: ONGC के कृष्णा-गोदावरी बेसिन की KG-D5 परियोजना से कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन इस साल मई में शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। वहीं क्षेत्र से गैस उत्पादन एक साल बाद शुरू होगा। कंपनी KG-DWN-98/2 ब्लॉक के क्लस्टर-दो क्षेत्र से उत्पादन जून, 2019 में ही शुरू करने वाली थी, जबकि कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन मार्च, 2020 से शुरू होना था।

BUSINESS STANDARD HINDI, Delhi, 30.3.2023
Page No. 4, Size:(8.97)cms X (12.09)cms.

गैस पाइपलाइनों के लिए 1 अप्रैल से एकीकृत शुल्क

शुभायन चक्रवर्ती
नई दिल्ली, 29 मार्च



राष्ट्रीय ग्रिड से जुड़ी एक दर्जन से अधिक गैस पाइपलाइनों पर 1 अप्रैल से एकीकृत शुल्क लगेगा। यह जानकारी पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड ने बुधवार को दी। बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड ने फरवरी में जानकारी दी थी कि सरकार अप्रैल से नई व्यवस्था शुरू करेगी।

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड ने सूचना जारी की है कि सिद्धांत 'एक देश, एक ग्रिड और एक शुल्क' के तहत लेवलाइज्ड एकीकृत शुल्क 73.93 रुपये प्रति मीट्रिक मिलियन ब्रिटिश थर्मल यूनिट होगा। नए शुल्क से अधिक दूरी तक और कई पाइपलाइनों से ईंधन ले जाने वाले ग्राहकों को फायदा मिलने की उम्मीद है। वर्तमान समय में उपभोक्ताओं को कई व परस्पर जुड़ी पाइपलाइनों का इस्तेमाल करने पर अतिरिक्त शुल्क अदा करना पड़ता है। इसके कारण पास की तुलना में दूरी पर ईंधन लेकर जाने पर उपभोक्ताओं को अधिक शुल्क अदा करना पड़ता है। एकीकृत शुल्क को आसान करने के लिए क्षेत्र के नियामक ने इकाई स्तर पर समन्वित प्राकृतिक गैस पाइपलाइन शुल्क पेश किया है।

VIRAT VAIBHAV, Delhi, 30.3.2023
Page No. 15, Size:(10.19)cms X (4.88)cms.

उत्पादन *गैस उत्पादन एक साल बाद शुरू होगा*

ओएनजीसी मई में कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन शुरू करेगी

वैभव न्यूज ■ नई दिल्ली

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल एवं गैस उत्पादक कंपनी ओएनजीसी के कृष्णा-गोदावरी बेसिन की केजी-डी5 परियोजना से कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन इस साल मई में शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। वहीं क्षेत्र से गैस उत्पादन एक साल बाद शुरू होगा। कंपनी के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने यह जानकारी दी। ओएनजीसी केजी-डीब्ल्यूएन-9812 ब्लॉक के क्लस्टर-दो क्षेत्र से उत्पादन जून, 2019 में ही शुरू करने वाली थी, जबकि कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन मार्च, 2020 से शुरू होना था। ओएनजीसी के निदेशक (उत्पादन) पंकज कुमार ने कहा कि कृष्णा गोदावरी बेसिन में स्थित इस परियोजना के लिए एक उत्पादन इकाई (एफपीएसओ) पहले ही स्थापित की जा चुकी है। इसका इस्तेमाल कच्चे तेल के उत्पादन के लिए किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा, हमारा अनुमान है कि यहां से तेल उत्पादन मई में शुरू हो जाना चाहिए। कंपनी को पहले तेल उत्पादन की शुरुआत नवंबर 2021 में करनी थी। इसे टालकर 2022 की तीसरी तिमाही और अब मई, 2023 किया गया है। वहीं गैस उत्पादन का लक्ष्य पहले, मई 2021, फिर मई, 2023 और अब मई, 2024 किया गया है। कंपनी का कहना है कि कोविड महामारी के कारण अनुबंध एवं आपूर्ति संबंधी अड़चनों से यह लक्ष्य समय पर हासिल नहीं किया जा सका। इस ब्लॉक से वर्तमान में प्रतिदिन 17 लाख मानक घनमीटर गैस का उत्पादन हो रहा है। कुमार ने कहा, हम शुरुआत में 10,000 से 12,000 बैरल प्रतिदिन का उत्पादन करेंगे और दो-तीन माह में इसे बढ़ाकर प्रतिदिन 45,000 बैरल किए जाने की उम्मीद है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस ब्लॉक से सीमित मात्रा में गैस भी निकल रही है लेकिन वास्तविक रूप से गैस उत्पादन मई, 2024 में ही शुरू हो पाएगा। उस समय इस ब्लॉक से प्रतिदिन 70-80 लाख घन मीटर गैस का उत्पादन होने की उम्मीद है। कुमार ने कहा कि कंपनी को अगले वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 में कच्चे तेल के उत्पादन में गिरावट को रोकने की उम्मीद है, जबकि प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन में वृद्धि की संभावना है।