ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 11, Size:(9.59)cms X (27.50)cms.

ET Q&A **G KRISHNAKUMAR**
CHAIRMAN, BPCL

'We Plan to Invest ₹1.5L cr in 5 Yrs to Expand Operations'

The state-run oil marketing firm plans to raise up to ₹ 18k cr in a rights issue this FY

BPCL plans to invest ₹1.5 lakh crore in the next five years to diversify operations as it targets net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2040, BPCL chairman G Krishnakumar told ET's **Kalpana Pathak.**
The state-run oil marketing company, which reported a consolidated profit of ₹10,644 crore in the first quarter ended June on the back of handsome refining and marketing margins, also plans to raise up to ₹18,000 crore in a rights issue this fiscal year, he said. **Edited excerpts:**

When does BPCL plan to launch its rights issue?
To meet our capital outlay for projects relating to net zero, we have proposed a right issue of equity capital of up to ₹ 18,000 crore. The rights issue will be completed within this financial year after compliance on the regulatory and statutory fronts. Currently, the process for appointment of intermediaries is underway. BPCL has set itself a net-zero target by 2040.

What about your five-year investment plans?
We are investing about ₹1.5 lakh crore in the next five years, which will be funded through a combination of internal generation and borrowings. This probably is more than what we did in the last 15 years.
Petrochemicals, renewables, EV (electric vehicle) charging and the Mozambique LNG project will be our big bets in the coming years.

How significant would the renewable energy segment be for BPCL in five years?
BPCL aspires to develop 1 GW renewable capacity assets (solar and wind) by 2025-26 and 10 GW by 2040. Currently, five solar

projects across Kerala, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are in various stages of execution with an aggregate capacity of 45.5 MW at an investment of ₹ 245 crore. BPCL is also implementing two wind power projects in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh with an aggregate capacity of 100 MW at an investment of ₹ 978 crore.

The street is expecting a fuel price cut from OMCs. Do we see that happening anytime soon?
We are constantly reviewing the crude/product prices and will take decisions on pricing once the international crude/product prices are more stable. Due to this high fluctuation in crude prices and recent OPEC+ cuts, we are constantly reviewing the crude/product prices and will take decisions on revision in retail selling price once the international crude/product prices are more stable.

Alternative fuel vehicles are registering an increase in monthly sales numbers. How far is that a challenge for BPCL's petrol and diesel sales?
BPCL has been investing in alternative fuel offerings in the retail network. BPCL is planning to convert 30% of its 21,000 retail outlets into energy stations in the medium to long term by offering fuelling options like petrol, diesel, CNG, CBG, EV charging and eventually hydrogen.

Big Oil shows it can still deliver when prices ebb

Can the industry generate decent returns with low crude prices? The tentative answer is yes

FOR BIG OIL, the second three months of the year were the first "normal" quarter since 2021: run-of-the-mill oil and gas prices, average trading profits and unremarkable refining and chemical margins. All the ingredients for a rather boring—and perhaps disappointing—reporting period. And, in many ways, it was.

Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., Shell Plc and TotalEnergies SE this week all reported profits significantly down year-on-year, in several cases even weaker than analysts were expecting. But precisely because the second quarter was so unexceptional, it's important. It answered a question that's worried many investors: Can Big Oil deliver decent returns with oil trading at $70 rather than at $100? The tentative answer is yes.

For the last two years, Exxon and its peers have been able to pay shareholders large sums, particularly by purchasing shares, thanks to the windfall created by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. That tailwind is dissipating.

The industry now has to rely more on its business acumen and financial strength rather than geopolitical upheaval: investing wisely, keeping cost under control, running assets hard and demonstrating an ability to take on debt to smooth out the cycle. Unfortunately for Big Oil, investors have very little faith in its judgement. And for good reason—returns on capital employed were rather poor for most of the 2000s.

JAVIER BLAS
Bloomberg

Yet, the second-quarter results offered a hint that maybe shareholders should have more faith—perhaps. Combined, the four major oil companies reported adjusted net income of $23.7 billion between April and June, down from $50.2 billion a year ago. Despite the more than 50% drop in profitability, Exxon, Chevron, Shell and Total were still able to return lots of money to investors, and showed that they should be able to sustain their buyback programs for the rest of the year. On average, the industry reported double-digit returns on average capital employed, or RoACE. So far so good. And a lot better than in 2007 to 2008, when oil prices surged well above current levels but RoACE was lower.

Capital spending appears well under control, a positive break with the past tradition of blowing up budgets. Even Shell, the most profligate among Big Oil, announced on Thursday a slightly lower spending target for the year. And Wael Sawan, its new-ish chief executive officer, spent most of his conference call with investors stressing his disciplined approach to employing capital. For a company that in the past invested hugely in unprofitable wind and solar projects, it was refreshing.

Operationally, the companies ran their assets as well as one would expect. Was it perfect? Nope—but when operating dozens of facilities full of flammable fossil fuels, the downtime during the quarter, whether scheduled or not, wasn't bad.

The quarter showed, nonetheless, that shareholders are making outsized demands on the oil majors. Despite paying investors handsomely for the last year and half, energy trades at the lowest price-to-earnings valuation of any sector in the S&P 500 index, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The boring second-quarter reveals that Big Oil can deliver strong-ish returns in weak-ish oil and gas markets. With balance sheets in much better shape after 18 months of high prices and exceptional trading and refining margins, there's room to take on debt, particularly for Exxon and Chevron. But the April-to-June period also indicates that Wall Street would react to boring quarterly results with a big yawn. Big Oil has survived a test; its close friends will stick with it. But that's about all it can hope for.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 1, Size:(14.76)cms X (43.34)cms.

Can fuel prices ease cereal inflation pain?

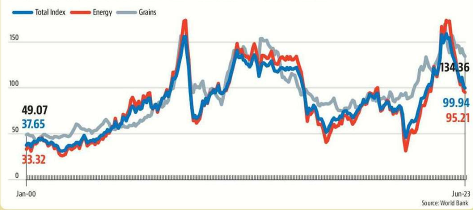
By Roshan Kishore

The prospect of a continued tightness in cereal markets -- over concerns of rain-related adversity to the rice crop and global tailwinds to wheat prices -- has generated upside risks to India's inflation prospects. When it comes to food prices, there is very little inflation targeting that monetary policy can achieve. Inflation targeting works on the premise of higher interest rates deflating demand, and deflating food demand is not a palatable option at all in democracies. There is, however, good reason to believe that fiscal policy can play a positive role in controlling inflation via an intervention on the fuel prices front. Here are three charts that explain this in detail.

1 Energy prices have fallen faster than grain prices after the Ukraine war surge

Primary data from the World Bank's Pink Sheet commodity price database shows this clearly. World Bank's energy price index had crashed to 31.6 in April 2020. While the index was gradually recovering, it saw a sharp surge after Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. The grain price index saw a similar spike after the beginning of the war in Europe. While the energy price index is significantly below pre-war levels, the same cannot be said about grain prices. It needs to be kept in mind that the latest numbers in World Bank's database is only for June and grain prices in July could see a further surge after India banning non-basmati rice exports and Russia disrupting the Black Sea grain trade deal.

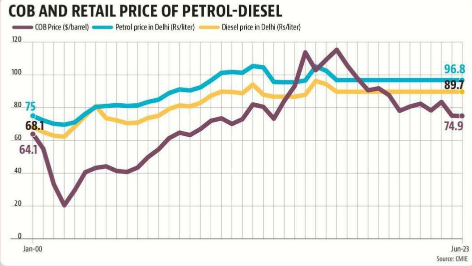
WORLD BANK'S GRAIN AND ENERGY PRICE INDEX



2 India's crude oil basket prices have moved with global prices, but retail rates haven't

On a de jure basis, petrol and diesel prices are market-aligned in India. However, there is good reason to believe that this principle is not being followed in de facto terms. Data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows that petrol-diesel prices have been constant since June 2022. While CMIE's monthly average data is available till June 2023, prices have not changed in July as well. The price of India's crude oil basket (COB) was $115.3 per barrel in June 2022 and it has fallen to $74.9 per barrel in June 2023. While the exact math of the link between COB and retail prices of petrol/diesel is not straightforward – exchange rate and taxes are crucial variables here – a case can definitely be made for the reduction in petrol/diesel prices. Because bulk of the fuel sales in India are done by government-owned companies, a large part of the extraordinary profits from keeping prices high provide a fiscal cushion to the government, especially the Centre, via the dividend route.

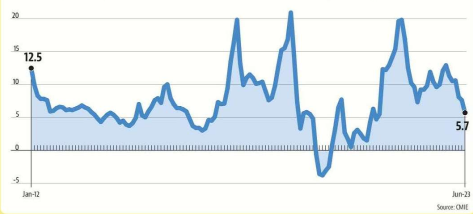
COB AND RETAIL PRICE OF PETROL-DIESEL



3 And fuel prices are still feeding into inflation

A disaggregated analysis of Consumer Price Index (CPI) data – it is India's benchmark inflation measure – shows that while the contribution of fuel prices to the headline inflation number has come down, it is still in the positive territory. This could change if fuel prices were reduced in keeping with the fall in crude oil prices, and could definitely ease the task of inflation management. As is obvious, this is a call of the government (which controls the oil companies), and the Reserve Bank of India.

% CONTRIBUTION OF FUEL GROUP TO Y.O.Y CPI GROWTH



4 Why is this route not being explored?

The reason can be that the government is hoping to deploy the savings from this route somewhere else. It could be aimed at medium-term fiscal consolidation — overall fiscal deficit levels are still quite high — and saving the fiscal ballast for the interim budget before the 2024 elections or the state elections cycle later this year. The fact that there is no political pressure to bring down prices in keeping with crude prices has clearly helped the government in continuing with this policy.

HINDU, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 10, Size:(6.23)cms X (16.59)cms.

Centre not passing on benefits of low oil prices, looting people, says Cong.

Jairam Ramesh cites CRISIL report that says public sector oil companies will make operating profits of ₹1 lakh crore

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday accused the Narendra Modi government of "brazen profiteering" by selling cheap oil at expensive rates, and alleged that it had pushed the country into a "vicious cycle of inflation".

In a statement, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh quoted a CRISIL report to argue that public sector oil companies would make an operating profit of ₹1 lakh crore as against ₹33,000 crore last year. Public sector and private sector oil companies are making a profit of more than ₹10 per litre on diesel and petrol, Mr. Ramesh noted.

'Brazen profiteering'

He added that crude oil has become cheaper by 35% in the international market in the past year.

"The Modi government, instead of passing on the benefits of low crude oil prices to the people, is hell-bent on looting their hard-earned money and is resorting to brazen profiteering by selling cheap oil at expensive rates," the Congress leader said.

He said in the nine years of the Modi regime, the average price of crude oil has remained around $65 per barrel and in the past three months, it has consistently remained $70-80. But retail prices have not been reduced by the government.

"The Modi government has pushed the country into a vicious cycle of inflation. The prices of essential commodities like vegetables, fruits, edible oils etc., have skyrocketed," Mr. Ramesh said.

He added that "if the prices of petroleum products are reduced, the prices of other essential commodities will automatically fall, as this will reduce the transportation costs and provide nationwide relief from inflation."

Giving a comparison of taxes under United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the Modi government, he said the excise duty was ₹9.20 on every litre of petrol and ₹3.46 on every litre of diesel in May 2014 when the UPA was in power, while the excise duty right now is ₹19.90 on petrol and ₹15.80 on diesel.

MINT, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 9, Size:(7.30)cms X (2.61)cms.

Centre to invest in HPCL, pick up stake

Five years after it exited the company, the government is set to get a significant stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) as it looks to infuse equity in fuel retailers that lost money on selling petrol and diesel at discounted rates last year, officials said. The government had in the budget for 2023-24 announced ₹30,000 crore of capital support to state-run fuel retailers —Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), HPCL and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)—to support their energy transition and net-zero initiatives. In June, the government asked IOC and BPCL to launch rights issues (to get the capital), and advised HPCL to make a preferential share allotment to the government.

Board of IOC earlier this month approved raising up to ₹22,000 crore by inviting existing shareholders to purchase additional new shares in the company. PTI

Centre to get major HPCL stake after rights issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 30

FIVE YEARS AFTER it exited the company, the government is set to get a significant stake in Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) as it looks to infuse equity in fuel retailers that lost money on selling petrol and diesel at discounted rates last year, officials said.

In the FY24 Budget, a capital support of ₹30,000 crore was announced for state-run fuel retailers — Indian Oil (IOC), HPCL and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) — to support their energy transition and net-zero initiatives.

In June, the government asked IOC and BPCL to launch rights issues (to get the capital), and advised HPCL to make a preferential share allotment to the government.

The IOC board earlier this month approved raising up to ₹22,000 crore by inviting existing shareholders to purchase additional new shares in the company (this type of issue gives existing shareholders securities called rights).

Continued on Page 15

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 1, Size:(6.73)cms X (19.34)cms.

Centre to get major HPCL stake after rights issue

THE BPCL BOARD, too, has approved raising up to ₹18,000 crore through a rights issue but the HPCL board is yet to approve the preferential issue.

Officials involved in the matter said the HPCL board is awaiting guidance from the government before taking the preferential issue (which is nothing but the procedure of bulk allotment of fresh shares to a specific group of investors).

Considering all existing shareholders of IOC exercising the option under the rights issue, the government would for its 51.5% stake in the company chip in ₹11,330 crore. Similarly, in case of BPCL, the government may end up paying about ₹9,530 crore for its 52.98% stake in the company, they said.

While the final numbers would depend on how many shareholders participate in the rights issue, fully-subscribed rights issue of IOC and BPCL would mean the government is left with anything between ₹9,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore out of the ₹30,000 crore approved in the Budget for HPCL's preferential issue.

At HPCL's current market capitalisation of ₹39,650 crore, this would translate into a significant stake, they said, adding the exact equity holding would depend on the price at which shares are issued to the government.

The government had in January 2018 sold its entire 51.11% stake in HPCL to ONGC for ₹36,915 crore. While that transaction was part of a strategic divestment programme, the government continues to retain indirect control over HPCL through state-owned ONGC.

ASIAN AGE, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(4.72)cms X (6.23)cms.

Government looking to infuse equity in HPCL

New Delhi, July 30: Five years after it exited the company, the government is set to get a significant stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) as it looks to infuse equity in fuel retailers that lost money on selling petrol and diesel at discounted rates last year, officials said.

The government had in the annual Budget for 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024 fiscal) announced ₹30,000 crore of capital support to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), HPCL and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to support their energy transition and net-zero initiatives.

In June, the government asked IOC and BPCL to launch rights issues (to get the capital), and advised HPCL to make a preferential share allotment to the government.

Board of IOC earlier this month approved raising up to ₹22,000 crore by inviting existing shareholders to purchase additional new shares in the company. BPCL board too has approved raising up to ₹18,000 crore through a rights issue but HPCL board is yet to approve the preferential issue.

Officials said HPCL board is awaiting guidance from the government before taking the preferential issue. *—PTI*

MORNING STANDARD, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 10, Size:(7.59)cms X (21.36)cms.

EQUITY

Govt to get significant stake in HPCL

PTI @New Delhi

Five years after it exited the company, the government is set to get a significant stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) as it looks to infuse equity in fuel retailers that lost money on selling petrol and diesel at discounted rates last year, officials said.

The government had in the annual Budget for 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024 fiscal) announced ₹30,000 crore of capital support to state-run fuel retailers -- IOC, HPCL and BPCL -- to support their energy transition and net-zero initiatives. In June, the government asked IOC and BPCL to launch rights issues, and advised HPCL to make a preferential share allotment to the government. Board of IOC earlier this month approved raising up to ₹22,000 crore by inviting existing shareholders to purchase additional new shares in the company.

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 4, Size:(19.71)cms X (9.58)cms.

Govt to get significant stake in HPCL after preference issue

The government is set to get a significant stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. as it looks to infuse equity in fuel retailers that lost money on selling petrol and diesel at discounted rates last year, officials said. Fully-subscribed rights issue of IOC and BPCL would see the government left with ₹9,000-10,000 crore of the ₹30,000 crore approved in the budget for preferential issue. **PTI**

FREE PRESS JOURNAL, Mumbai, 31.7.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(5.29)cms X (7.37)cms.

Govt to get significant stake in HPCL post preference issue

PTI / New Delhi

Five years after it exited the company, the government is set to get a significant stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) as it looks to infuse equity in fuel retailers that lost money on selling petrol and diesel at discounted rates last year, officials said.

The government had in the annual Budget for 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024 fiscal) announced Rs 30,000 crore of capital support to state-run fuel retailers -- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), HPCL and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) -- to support their energy transition and net-zero initiatives.

In June, the government asked IOC and BPCL to launch rights issues (to get the capital), and advised HPCL to make a preferential share allotment to the government.

Board of IOC earlier this

month approved raising up to Rs 22,000 crore by inviting existing shareholders to purchase additional new shares in the company (this type of issue gives existing shareholders securities called rights).

BPCL board too has approved raising up to Rs 18,000 crore through a rights issue but HPCL board is yet to approve the preferential issue.

Officials involved in the matter said HPCL board is awaiting guidance from the government before taking the preferential issue (which is nothing but the procedure of bulk allotment of fresh shares to a specific group of investors).

FREE PRESS JOURNAL, Mumbai, 31.7.2023
Page No. 8, Size:(9.63)cms X (6.23)cms.

Mahanagar Gas Limited inaugurates new medical facilities under MGL Aarogya

Mahanagar Gas Limited, one of the largest City Gas Distribution (CGD) companies in India, inaugurated new Digital Dental Centre and Dental Implantology Centre at BMC's Nair Hospital Dental College, as well as Cardiac Stress Testing Laboratory of Cardiology Department at Topiwala National Medical College & B.Y.L Nair Charitable Hospital. The new centres were upgraded under 'MGL Aarogya,' Mahanagar Gas Limited's CSR initiative that focusses on healthcare.

The Cardiac Stress Testing Laboratory and the Digital Dental Centre & Dental Implantology Centre were jointly inaugurated by Ms. Malvika Sinha (Chairperson CSR Committee- MGL), Dr. Neelam Andrade (Director M.E & M.H) BMC, Shri Syed Shahzad Hussain (Member CSR Committee-MGL).

Both the inauguration events were graced by the presence of Ashu Shinghal, Managing Director, Mahanagar Gas Limited; Sanjay Shende, Deputy Managing Director, Mahanagar Gas Limited, Deans of Nair, Sion & KEM Hospitals, Atmakur Chakrapani, Vice President (HR & CSR), T L Sharnagat, Vice President (Contracts & Procurements and Chief Risk Officer), Head of Depts of Nair hospital and senior officials from Mahanagar Gas Limited.

The Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) facility, at the Dental Centre, contributed by Mahanagar Gas Limited will add to the expertise and better treatment of the patients from Mumbai, surburbs and outside Mumbai. With this facility, Nair Dental Hospital will be the first government/ semi government hospital in the country to have this advance technology. With these technological advancement, dental practitioners will be able to perform complicated restorations more quickly and effectively. This digital technique is mostly used to create high-strength ceramic restorations such as Crowns, Inlays, Onlays, Veneers, Bridges, Dentures, and implant-supported restorations.

Computerized Stress Test (CST) Machine, VDDR Single Chamber ICD-DX Technology, equipment for Percutaneous Transluminal Valvuloplasty (PTV) & Balloon Mitral Valvuplasty (BMV), etc. are among the 0 equipments donated for the cardiology department of T. N. Medical College & B.Y.L Nair Charitable Hospital.

These medical equipment provided to the hospital will help bridge the gap and strengthen the infrastructure of the hospital. It will help in providing quality cardiac and dental care to the economically weaker sections of the society.

MINT, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(7.45)cms X (23.14)cms.

Sanctions hit Sibur petrochem plans with Indian Oil

Utpal Bhaskar
utpal.b@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Russia's largest integrated petrochemicals company PJSC Sibur Holding's plan to build a large petrochemical plant with state-run Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IOC) at Paradip has hit a roadblock due to the sanctions amid ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, said two people aware of the development.

The two partners were slated to sign an agreement for the facility but Sibur, also Russia's largest liquefied petroleum gas producer, has kept its plan on hold following the sanctions on Moscow amid the Ukraine war. This led IOC to go ahead with the project on its own.

Sibur's participation in the petrochemicals venture was billed to be part of a multi-pronged approach between India and Russia involving a joint collaboration in petrochemicals, energy sourcing and supplies, as well as upstream investments in both the countries. The last large investment from Russia in the Indian energy space was the $12.9 billion acquisition of Essar Oil Ltd in 2017 by a consortium led by Rosneft that included the sale of the 20 million-tonnes-per-year Vadinar refinery and the Vadinar port.

Mint reported on Sibur's proposed investment on 5 August 2021. The investment was explored given IOC's focus on expanding its petrochemical business amid growing demand for petrochemicals in India and worldwide. As of 2022, India was the sixth largest petrochemicals market in the world with a market size of $190 billion, and is expected to reach $1 trillion in 2040.

"While we are facing problems with our assets in Russia in the wake of sanctions, even proposed Russian investments in India such as that from Sibur are stuck. They were looking to partner with Indian Oil Corp. Nothing is happening on that front. While the project is moving ahead but Russian interest has waned," one of the persons said requesting anonymity.

Sibur is Russia's largest LPG producer.

Queries emailed to spokespersons of IOC, Sibur and India's petroleum and natural gas ministry on 18 July did not elicit a response till press time.

India is trying to leverage its position as a key refining hub in Asia to boost its petrochemical capacity

State-run firms are facing a host of issues with Russian ventures as reported by *Mint*, including ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) waiting to receive equity rights for its shares in Sakhalin-1 oil and gas fields; and OVL, Bharat Petroresources Ltd, IOC, and Oil India Ltd facing delays in getting about $400 million worth of dividend payments from CSJC Vankorneft and LLC Taas-Yuryakh given the ongoing difficulty in transferring it from Russia.

IOC's 15 million tonnes per annum Paradip refinery in Odisha was commissioned in 2016 and produces various grades of petrochemicals, with para-xylene and PTA plants under the implementation stage.

India is trying to leverage its position as a key refining hub in Asia to boost its petrochemical capacity.

NAYA INDIA, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 2, Size:(10.94)cms X (15.44)cms.

पेट्रोल डीजल का मुनाफा लोगों में बांटे सरकार : कांग्रेस

नई दिल्ली ■ वार्ता

कांग्रेस ने कहा है कि मोदी सरकार सस्ती दर पर पेट्रोल और डीजल का आयात कर देश में उसे महंगे दाम पर बेचकर भारी मुनाफा कमा रही है और इस कमाई का फायदा देश की जनता को मिले इसलिए कीमत कम से कम 35 प्रतिशत तक की कम की जानी चाहिए।

कांग्रेस संचार विभाग के प्रभारी जयराम रमेश रविवार को यहां जारी एक बयान में कहा कि मोदी सरकार पेट्रोल-डीज़ल पर निर्दयी तरीके से मुनाफाखोरी कर रही है और पिछले एक साल में कच्चा तेल 35 प्रतिशत तक सस्ता हुआ है लेकिन पेट्रोल-डीज़ल के दाम नहीं घटाए गए।

उन्होंने कहा "देशवासी महंगाई और बेरोजगारी की मार झेलते हुए आर्थिक संकट से जूझ रहे हैं, लेकिन भाजपा सरकार देशवासियों की खून-पसीने की कमाई लूटने में लगी है। कच्चे तेल की कीमत कम होने के बावजूद उसका लाभ देशवासियों को देने की बजाए सरकार पेट्रोल और डीज़ल पर निर्दयी तरीके से टैक्स लगाकर सस्ते में ईंधन को महंगे में बेचकर मुनाफाखोरी कर रही है। सरकार ने पेट्रोल व डीज़ल में न केवल स्वयं भयानक मुनाफ़ाख़ोरी की है, बल्कि मित्र पूँजीपतियों के भी वारे न्यारे करवाए हैं। टैक्स बढाने से पेट्रोल-डीज़ल की कीमतों में बेतहाशा बढ़ोतरी हुई और गरीबों, मध्यम वर्ग और नौकरीपेशा लोगों की जेब पर डाका डाला गया है। बीते एक साल में कच्चा तेल 35 प्रतिशत सस्ता हो चुका है, मगर पेट्रोल-डीज़ल के दाम नहीं घटाए गए हैं।" कांग्रेस नेता ने कहा "सरकारी और प्राइवेट तेल कंपनियों को पेट्रोल-डीज़ल बेचने पर 10 रुपए प्रति लीटर से ज्यादा का मुनाफा हो रहा है।

NAYA INDIA, Delhi, 31.7.2023
Page No. 7, Size:(10.94)cms X (15.44)cms.

सरकार को मिलेगी एचपीसीएल में महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सेदारी

नई दिल्ली, भाषा। हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (एचपीसीएल) से बाहर निकलने के पांच साल बाद सरकार को कंपनी में महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सेदारी मिलने जा रही है। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि ईंधन खुदरा विक्रेताओं को पिछले साल रियायती दरों पर पेट्रोल और डीजल बेचने पर काफी नुकसान हुआ है, जिसके चलते सरकार एचपीसीएल में इक्विटी निवेश करने जा रही है। सरकार ने जनवरी 2018 में एचपीसीएल में अपनी पूरी 51.11 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी ओएनजीसी को 36,915 करोड़ रुपये में बेच दी थी।

सरकार पेट्रोल-डीजल पर निर्दयी तरीके से कर बढ़ाकर मुनाफाखोरी कर रही : कांग्रेस

वीर अर्जुन संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली। कांग्रेस ने रविवार को केंद्र पर आरोप लगाया कि वह पेट्रोल और डीजल पर निर्दयी तरीके से कर लगाकर मुनाफाखोरी कर रही है। पार्टी ने नरेन्द्र मोदी सरकार से अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में आई गिरावट का लाभ जनता को देने की मांग की ताकि उन्हें कमरतोड़ महंगाई से राहत मिल सके।

कांग्रेस के महासचिव और संचार प्रभारी जयराम रमेश ने एक बयान में कहा कि अगर केंद्र सरकार करों में कमी कर पूर्ववर्ती संयुक्त प्रगतिशील गठबंधन (संप्रग) सरकार के दौरान लागू दर पर लाती है और मुनाफाखोरी रोकती है तो पेट्रोल की कीमत में 25 से 30 रुपये प्रति लीटर कमी कर जनता को राहत दे सकती है। उन्होंने कहा, हमारी मांग है कि मोदी सरकार अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमत में आई गिरावट के अनुसार पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम में 35 प्रतिशत तक की कमी करे और देश की जनता को अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमत में हुई भारी गिरावट का लाभ दे ताकि उन्हें कमरतोड़ महंगाई से कुछ राहत मिले। रमेश ने आरोप लगाया कि जनता महंगाई और बेरोजगारी की वजह से आर्थिक संकट से गुजर रही है लेकिन भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) नीत सरकार मुश्किल से कमाई गई राशि लूटने में लगी है। कांग्रेस नेता ने आरोप लगाया, अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में गिरावट के बावजूद देश की जनता को लाभ देने के बजाय मोदी सरकार निर्दयी तरीके से पेट्रोल और डीजल पर कर लगाकर मुनाफाखोरी कर रही है और सस्ते तेल को ऊंची कीमत पर बेच रही है। उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि सरकार न केवल पेट्रोल और डीजल से स्वयं मुनाफा कमा रही है बल्कि अपने साथी उद्योगपतियों को भी लाभ पहुंचा रही है।