

Govt forms panel to scout for ONGC Chairman

Rishi Ranjan Kala

New Delhi

The government has formed a three-member committee, headed by the Chairman Public Enterprise Election Board (PESB), to scout for the next Chairman of ONGC — India's largest oil and gas exploration and production company.

The selected candidate will replace the serving Chairman Arun Kumar Singh, whose tenure has been extended by a year.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposals of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the re-employment of Singh as Chairman, ONGC, on contract basis for a further period of one-year with effect from December 7, or till assumption of charge of the post by the regular incumbent, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest, on terms and conditions to be finalised by the Ministry in consultation with the Department of Public Enter-

prises," an official order, seen by *businessline*, said.

The ACC also approved the constitution of the "Search-cum-Selection Committee" for the purpose of identification and selection of a regular ONGC Chairman, it added.

The three-member panel includes Oil Secretary and B Ashok, former Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation.

ONGC, Petronet ink 15-year Ethane handling pact

NEW DELHI: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited and Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) have entered into a 15-Years Ethane Unloading, Storage and Handling (USH) Services Binding Term Sheet (commencing between October – December 2028 and ending on the fifteenth (15th) anniversary of the commencement date).

PLL is developing ethane unloading, storage and handling (USH) facilities with ethane storage tank capacity of approx. 1,70,000 Cubic Meters at Dahej, Gujarat.

PLL is also constructing a unique third jetty at Dahej which will be capable of handling Ethane and Propane in addition to LNG.

As per the term sheet, ONGC shall reserve capacity



of approximately 600 KTPA at PLL's Ethane storage and handling facilities at Dahej, Gujarat.

PLL shall receive, store and handle Ethane sourced and imported by ONGC/its subsidiary or affiliate(s) at Dahej, Gujarat and re-deliver Ethane to ONGC at the Delivery Point.

The term sheet shall form basis for definitive agreements

between the parties.

As per the commitments under the binding term sheet, PLL is expected to earn a gross revenue of about Rs 5,000 crore over the total contract duration of 15 years.

The transaction under the said term sheet shall commence from FY 2028-2029. It represents a significant milestone in PLL's strategic vision

to develop and offer ethane import infrastructure to third parties, thereby expanding its business portfolio beyond LNG and strengthening its position in India's petrochemical and energy value chain.

Petronet LNG Limited's under-construction unique third jetty will facilitate unloading, storage and handling ethane, propane and LNG at Dahej and will be first-of-its-kind in India which shall be made available for third-party imports.

This step of PLL underscores its commitment for enabling growth of downstream industries such as Petrochemical sector through world-class import infrastructure for ethane and propane in addition to its existing LNG regasification infrastructure.

MPPOST



India in oil pivot ahead of Putin visit

With the November 21 deadline now past, India's Russian crude oil inflows are easing but not collapsing as refiners pivot to non-sanctioned suppliers, tap alternatives and benefit from soft global prices

SUDHEER PAL SINGH
New Delhi, 3 December

The story of India's oil imports from Russia is playing out rather less dramatically than feared, now that the November 21 deadline for countries to stop importing oil from Russian entities such as Rosneft and Lukoil has passed.

The question of Western sanctions on Russian oil imports is set to figure prominently when President Vladimir Putin arrives in India today on a high-profile, 30-hour visit. India's oil imports soared when Russia began offering discounted crude to get around western sanctions imposed following Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

But energy-hungry India must now taper its Russian oil imports following mounting Western pressure.

Fortunately, a variety of factors

have come into play to ensure that while it is not 'business as usual' on Russian oil imports, predictions of a major hit to supplies or price shocks have not come true either.

Factors in favour of India's energy security include the option and freedom to source oil from non-sanctioned Russian entities, continuing handsome discounts on Russian crude, the possibility of securing not-so-costly oil from other regions like West Asia and Africa, and subdued global oil prices.

As far as November is concerned, Russian arrivals remained very strong, averaging 1.8 million barrels per day (mbpd) and accounting for more than 35 per cent of India's total crude imports. Before November 21, imports were closer to 1.9-2.0 mbpd as buyers moved cargoes ahead of the deadline. Volumes have slowed since then.

However, looking at December and

January, there are clear signs of a dip in Russian exports to India. Based on current loadings and voyage activity, December arrivals are likely to be in the range of 1.0-1.2 mbpd, according to experts. This is broadly in line with the expectation that, in the short term, Russian flows could ease towards the 800,000 barrels per day (bpd) level before stabilising in a more comfortable zone.

"In the medium term, refiners are already adjusting to the new reality. There is a shift towards non-designated Russian entities, more use of other trading channels, and increased sourcing from the West Asia, West Africa, and the Americas. As long as broader secondary sanctions are not applied, India is likely to continue importing Russian crude, just through more indirect routes," said Sumit Ritolia, lead research ana-

lyst at Kpler, a data and analytics firm.

November bump

Overall, Indian imports of Russian grade crude in November stood at a five-month high, before sanctions kicked in. This bump can be explained by a few key factors. First, front-loaded arrivals remained strong ahead of the November 21 deadline, with refiners accelerating scheduling and speeding up vessel turnarounds, particularly for Rosneft- and Lukoil-linked cargoes.

Second, there was high domestic fuel demand and strong refinery runs during this period when Russian barrels remained the most economical incremental feedstock. Finally, refinery operations improved at Nayara Energy, which has been running almost exclusively on Russian grades. Nayara's utilisation has picked up since September, with the company importing roughly 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude through November 27. Rosneft, one of the key targets of western sanctions, holds a major stake in Nayara through its subsidiaries.

"On sentiment, refiners emphasise that Russian oil itself is not sanctioned, only certain entities are. As long as they stick to compliant, non-designated suppliers, purchases should continue. Current discounts are still attractive, which also supports ongoing demand," Ritolia said. He added that refiners are diversifying supplies to offset reduced direct Russian volumes, and that because Indian refinery operations are complex, replacing Russian volumes should not create any technical impact, only reducing margins for some.

Crude options

Russia accounts for 35 per cent of India's crude imports, or about 4.7 mbpd. The rest is mainly met through imports from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Nigeria, and Angola. It is the shortfall of 35 per cent of total crude imports that needs to be replenished from non-sanctioned Russian entities.

"The other three alternatives are to increase imports from existing suppliers such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia or alternatively reach long-

Tracking the trade

- India's Russian oil imports at five-month high, averaging 1.8 mbpd in November
- In December, Russian crude shipments likely to dip to 1 mbpd
- Indian refiners shifting to West Asia, West Africa; US to fill the gap
- Strong refinery runs at Nayara Energy key factor in supporting Russian imports
- Amid sanctions, Saudi cut price of its oil grades, attempting to reclaim its lost ground in Asia

term contracts with new reliable suppliers. Or there is also a large pool of 30-35 per cent of the total world oil trade in the form of a spot market," said Jatinder Cheema, a projects, energy and natural resources lawyer, and an expert on global energy issues. In order to compensate for the softer near-term Russian arrivals of crude, Indian refiners are expected to increase intake from a broader mix of suppliers in the coming months, including from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE, Kuwait, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Guyana, West Africa, the US, and Canada.

The import bill

Interestingly, even as Russia faces new sanctions, another key player, Saudi Arabia, has made its counter-move. Riyadh, through state-owned Saudi Aramco, announced a sharp reduction in the official selling price (OSP) for its crude oil destined for Asia in December.

The premium for Arab Light over the Oman/Dubai average was cut by \$1.20 per barrel, now standing at just \$1.00, the lowest in many months. The Arab Medium and Arab Heavy grades were also trimmed by \$1.40 each, with similar reductions across other blends. The timing of the move is crucial. The decision came right after the Opec+ group of oil-producing nations agreed to raise output by 137,000 barrels per day for December, but with a pause on further increases through the first quarter of 2026.

"At first glance, this is just a commercial adjustment, an attempt to stay competitive in a well-supplied Asian market. But in truth, it appears to be a geopolitical play, Saudi Arabia is reclaiming lost ground in Asia, particularly in India and China, where Russian barrels had made deep inroads, particularly over the last two years," Cheema said.

"The price cuts are Riyadh's signal that it intends to remain the cornerstone supplier to Asia, even if that means sacrificing margins to maintain market share. For Asian refiners, especially in India, the timing is serendipitous. With Russian supplies coming under pressure, Saudi barrels are not only accessible, but cheaper."

Future moves

A key strategic aim of the Indian government is to make sure its strategic reserves are topped up, Cheema said.

"...The government and the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPR) are fast-tracking procurements to refill and expand the country's strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs)," he said.

"It is a calculated move — one that merges economic opportunity with geopolitical foresight. Secondly, we are in a well-supplied global market, and Russian Urals have been further discounted, opening opportunities for non-sanctioned crude."

Given this context, while it is likely that India's oil imports from Russia will decrease after November 21, the decline is most likely to be temporary, allowing the supply chain to reorganise itself. What this also means is that, barring more expansive secondary sanctions, India will continue to buy from non-sanctioned suppliers of Russian oil.

"The reasons are multiple. The geopolitical and economic dimensions are both essential. Political leaders will not want to be seen as bending down to US sanctions. At the same time, Russian barrels remain highly cost-competitive, and workarounds to maintain flows are likely to emerge. In particular, buyers may increasingly pivot to non-sanctioned Russian entities and opaque trading channels," Ritolia said.

ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh gets one-year extension



The government has approved the extension of Arun Kumar Singh as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) chairman and chief executive officer on contract basis for another year, according to a senior company official. It has also approved setting up a committee for identification and selection of a regular Chairman. The committee will be headed by Public Enterprise Selection Board Chairperson Mallika Srinivasan and comprise petroleum secretary Pankaj Jain and former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Chairman B Ashok as members. **BS REPORTER**

PLL to provide ONGC ethane facilities, inks ₹50-bn, 15-yr deal



Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd and Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL) have entered into a 15-Years Ethane unloading, storage, and handling services binding term sheet. The agreement will begin sometime in Oct-Dec 2028 and end on the 15th anniversary of the commencement date. The deal could earn Petronet LNG revenue of

up to INR 50 billion over the 15-year period. As per the term sheet, ONGC will reserve capacity of nearly 600,000 tonnes per annum at Petronet LNG's ethane storage and handling facilities at Dahej. Petronet LNG, on its part, will receive, store, and handle ethane sourced by ONGC and its subsidiaries or affiliates at Dahej and redeliver it to ONGC at the delivery point.



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ONGC Chairman Arun Singh Gets 1-Year Extension

New Delhi: The government has approved a one-year extension for Arun Singh as chairman of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). His three-year term was scheduled to end on December 6.

Singh, who retired as chairman of Bharat Petroleum Corporation in 2022, was brought in to reinvigorate ONGC at a time when the company was grappling with years of declining output. Under his leadership, ONGC has arrested the fall in standalone crude production, secured a more balanced domestic gas pricing formula and restructured the capital-intensive petrochemicals business. The company has reported healthy profits over the past three years and distributed a significant share as dividends to the government and other shareholders.

One of Singh's most notable moves was securing British multinational BP as a technical service provider to improve output from ONGC's ageing flagship Mumbai High fields. ONGC has also engaged BP's experts to assess its underperforming KG Basin asset and outline a production ramp-up strategy. — **Our Bureau**

Indian refiners to issue 2nd tender for US LPG

S DINAKAR

Amritsar, 3 December

Indian state-run refiners will issue a second tender in a few months to secure four more cargoes of LPG on a short-term basis from the US. Purchases will be on free on-board terms, enabling Indian refiners to deploy their own charters for long distance LPG transportation for the first time to cut costs, according to two top refining sources.

Indian refiners will also issue some spot tenders for purchase of US LPG for deliveries early next year, the sources said. Details are not yet available.

Spot purchases of the fuel from the US have already soared to a record 1.42 million tonnes in the January-November period from 0.1 million tonnes in 2024 and 0.4 million tons in 2023, according to ship tracking data by Kpler. India typically imports over 60 per cent of its LPG consumption, most of which are sourced from Gulf nations.

Contract prices of LPG from the Gulf were sticky at over \$600 a tonne levels earlier this year, despite a sharp decline in crude prices, a senior trader from a state refiner said. But Saudi Arabia started cutting rates once India decided to buy LPG under a term contract for the first time from a non-Gulf nation, the traders said. Indian state oil marketing companies agreed with three traders earlier this year to source as much as 2 million tonnes of US LPG in 2026 under a term contract.

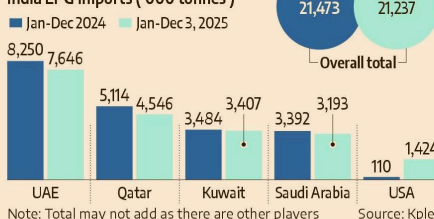
If India continues to buy spot LPG at current levels next year, and after including the term contract, US supplies to India will be valued at around \$2 billion for 2026, sharply higher from the \$60 million in 2024, according to calculations based on shipping data and current LPG rates, eroding India's trade surplus with the US.

Separately, Saudi Aramco, whose prices of LPG are a benchmark for other Middle



Tracking LPG space

India LPG imports ('000 tonnes)



East suppliers, increased benchmark contract prices for propane and butane for December to \$495 a metric tonne and \$485/t, respectively, according to a company document. Propane will cost \$20/t more this month from November and butane is \$25/t higher, but the rates are still well below \$575/t levels charged by Aramco in July, when refiners launched a tender for US LPG, sources said and pricing documents show. Aramco had cut propane and butane prices to the lowest level in 27 months, or since August 2023, to \$475/tonne and \$460/tonne in November.

Own charters to cut transport costs

Chartering its own tankers will help Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum manage logistics costs of shipping the fuel from the US, because transportation

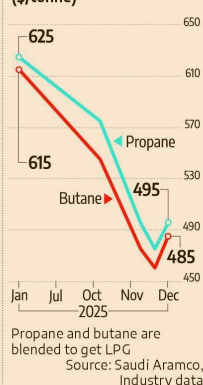
costs of propane and butane, which is blended to form LPG, from the US is thrice that of supplies from the Gulf countries, sources said.

If successful, Indian refiners plan to negotiate future term contracts from the US on FOB terms rather than on a delivered basis. Using our own charters will help bring parity between the cost of importing LPG from the US and from the UAE or Saudi Arabia, sources said. Earlier this year, India concluded a deal to buy 48 cargoes of propane and butane from the US in 2026. Beginning January, Indian state refiners will receive two cargoes each of propane and butane every month, sources said.

Indian Oil will receive 24 cargoes with the remaining shared equally between BPCL and HPCL, the sources said. P66, a US LPG producer and trader was awarded 24 cargoes

Saudi contract prices for LPG

(\$/tonne)



under the tender with Chevron and Total securing contracts to supply 12 cargoes each, the sources said. At least 75 per cent of the propane and butane shipments will come from the US, with the rest possibly from non-US sources. Details of the tender awards have not been reported earlier.

LPG pricing

India imported 21.5 million tonnes of LPG in 2024 and 21.2 million tonnes in the first 11 months of 2025, according to data from maritime intelligence agency Kpler. Middle East nations led by the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia accounted for nearly all LPG shipments in 2024.

India may end up paying at least 10 per cent more for LPG supplies from the US for 2026 on delivered basis compared to imports from the Middle East because of high freight costs, the sources said. US supplies are linked to pricing agency OPIS price assessments at Mont Belvieu hub, the sources said.

US rates are typically at a \$100 per tonne discount to Saudi contract prices for propane and butane, but freight costs from the US at \$130-\$140 a tonne are much higher than shipping LPG from Gulf countries, the sources said. However, the higher costs for US LPG have been compensated by a sharp cut in benchmark rates of Middle East supplies in the last few months, sources said.

Saudi Aramco sharply cut monthly contract prices of propane and butane only after India announced a term tender for US LPG, sources said, reflecting the competitive pressures piling on Saudi Aramco, which until a few months had continued to keep prices of LPG high, industry officials said.

"We pay more for US LPG, but are getting much lower prices for 90 per cent of our LPG imports, which comes from the Middle East," a senior trader from a state refiner said.

Input costs to go up for FMCG; fertilisers, crude to get costlier

YARUQHULLAH KHAN, ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ, NITIN KUMAR & SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, December 3

FOR SECTORS WHERE the country is heavily import-dependent, a weaker rupee would inflate costs further. But the worries are abated, at least for the time being, by the current benign domestic inflation and relatively low commodity prices.

The adverse effect of falling rupee will be felt across traders and companies that import/process crude oil and natural gas (LNG), edible oils and fertilisers. Weak local currency could jack up imported-inputs costs for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) firms. The aviation sector is also vulnerable given that its key cost components are denominated in dollars, which have turned more expensive.

With the central bank's policy to interfere much less in the forex market than it used to, some of the large-import sectors like edible oils and coal have a pressing case for reducing import reliance over the medium term. Policies are being implemented to spur domestic edible oil production and coal mining, and these have already begun to bear fruit. For crude oil and natural gas, however, import volumes will continue to be high, as prospects of higher domestic production are limited.

The impact on the end consumers will be limited/calibrated as the cost increases will be shared by the government budget and to a certain extent by state-run oil firms. Retail prices of fertilisers are controlled and auto fuel pricing is not totally free in practical terms.

Prices of petchem and polymers for Indian consumers will rise as these crude derivatives are priced on import-parity basis. "Import bills for both oil and gas will be impacted as these are essentially dollarised businesses. Crude import bill will go up in rupee terms. Since prices are fixed for petrol and diesel at the pump level, there would be an impact of rupee depreciation," said Prashant Vasisht, senior vice president at Icria.

For domestic crude oil producers like ONGC and Oil India, the rupee's fall is, however, positive thanks to import-parity pricing. The downstream industries, which consist of refiners and marketers, may feel the pinch. Reliance Industries and state-run



oil and oil derivatives along with that of other imported commodities will increase for the industrial sector, increasing input costs and wholesale inflation. Some petrochemical players buy naphtha and other material from foreign markets where again there could be an impact on their cost in rupee terms because of dollar denominated purchases.

FMCG companies such as Hindustan Unilever and ITC could face a 5-7% increase in input costs as palm and crude derivatives account for 20-30% of their total raw material costs. Of course, the prices of palm oil, a major ingredient in FMCG products, have been stable for the last six months, creating a cushion.

A report by Goldman Sachs last month indicated that HUL was significantly impacted by the declining value of the rupee, with 55% of its raw material prices being tied to international commodity prices, 25% of which being imported and 30% linked to global prices. Exports constitute only 15.5% of HUL's revenues. Analysts believe that a prolonged decline in the rupee could result in a rise in HUL's input costs by 6-8%, which may affect profit margins for 2025-26.

According to Pushan Sharma, director-research at Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics, rupee fall coupled with crude price rise is expected to increase input costs. Preeyam Tolia, senior research analyst at Axis Securities expects a falling rupee to have an impact on operating margins of firms like HUL, ITC, Godrej Consumer, Dabur India, Marico and Wipro Consumer. Tolia, however, expects margins to improve sequentially in the third quarter and any impact to be short-term.

Apart from rising input costs, increasing international acquisitions are also exposing FMCG companies to currency risks, as many firms have financed acquisitions through foreign currency loans.

India imports nearly 30% of fertilisers consumed — urea, DAP, potash, and NPK. "Cost of imports is largely dependent on the global fertiliser prices (rather than exchange rate) which often see volatility due to transportation routes impacted by the geo-political factors," an official told FE.

Imports of edible oils — palm, soyabean and sunflower — from Malaysia, Indonesia, Russia, Ukraine and Argentina could get costlier.

IOC, BPCL and HPCL would, however, be able to offset the negative effect to the extent gross refining margins are dollar-denominated. One positive aspect for marketers of auto fuels is that marketing margins are now very healthy.

City-gas companies like IGL and MGL will see their costs going up. "In the LNG segment, the increase in import bill may be passed on to consumers also, at least with a lag if not immediately and there will be some compression on margins," Vasisht said.

While retail petrol and diesel prices may not go up immediately due to absorption of the under-recoveries by the state-run oil marketing companies, the prices of



कारीपहाड़ी बना स्वच्छ ऊर्जा का मॉडल गांव

लखनऊ। ग्रामीण विकास की दिशा में एक बड़ा कदम उठाते हुए पंचायतीराज विभाग ने स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (ग्रामीण) फेज-2 के अंतर्गत गोवर्धन परियोजना को नई गति प्रदान की है। अपशिष्ट को संपदा में बदलने के उद्देश्य से जनपद ललितपुर की ग्राम पंचायत कारीपहाड़ी में 85 घनमीटर क्षमता का बायोगैस संयंत्र स्थापित कर पूर्ण रूप से संचालित किया जा रहा है, जिसने ग्रामीण आजीविका और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय परिणाम दिए हैं। यह संयंत्र प्रदेश में सफल एवं प्रेरक मॉडल के रूप में उभर रहा है, जिससे ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूती मिल रही है। बायोगैस संयंत्र से उत्पादित गैस 12 परिवारों को पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से प्रतिदिन सुबह और शाम उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है, जिससे उन्हें स्वच्छ, सस्ती और सुरक्षित ऊर्जा प्राप्त हो रही है। साथ ही संयंत्र से उत्पन्न गैस के उपयोग से 15 केवीए क्षमता के जेनरेटर के माध्यम से विद्युत उत्पादन किया जा रहा है, जिसका उपयोग दो निर्मित कक्षों में स्थापित आटा चक्की के संचालन हेतु किया जा रहा है। कम लागत पर उपलब्ध पिसाई-सुविधा के कारण आसपास के गांवों के लोग भी लाभान्वित हो रहे हैं। संयंत्र से लाभान्वित परिवारों से 250 रुपये प्रतिमाह गैस शुल्क, तथा आटा पिसाई पर 1 रुपये प्रति किलो शुल्क निर्धारित किया गया है। संयंत्र से प्राप्त जैविक खाद (स्लरी) को क्षेत्र के कृषि किसानों को उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है।

हिमंत ने नुमालीगढ़ रिफाइनरी को नवरत्न का दर्जा दिए जाने पर पीएम का आभार जताया



तैभव न्यूज ■ गुवाहाटी

असम के मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत विश्व शर्मा ने गोलाघाट स्थित नुमालीगढ़ रिफाइनरी लिमिटेड (एनआरएल) को केंद्र द्वारा नवरत्न का दर्जा दिए जाने पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया है। उन्होंने राज्य के तेल और गैस क्षेत्र में विश्वास जताने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री को धन्यवाद दिया। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत आने वाले एक केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उद्यम (सीपीएसई) के रूप में एनआरएल को पहले मिनीरत्न का दर्जा प्राप्त था। एनआरएल अब सीपीएसई में 27वीं नवरत्न कंपनी बन गई है। शर्मा ने एक्स पर एक पोस्ट में कहा, असम के तेल और गैस क्षेत्र में उनके विश्वास और इसे आगे बढ़ाने में उनके मार्गदर्शन के लिए मैं आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी का आभारी हूं। यह मील का पत्थर केंद्रीय मंत्री श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी जी के अटूट समर्थन के बिना संभव नहीं

होता। उन्होंने कहा कि यह असम के लिए गर्व का क्षण है। एक अन्य पोस्ट में मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा, कुछ समय पहले, यह कंपनी अपना पीएसयू (सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र का उपक्रम) दर्जा खोने की कगार पर थी, लेकिन केंद्र सरकार के समर्थन से हमने उद्यम की क्षमता में अपना विश्वास जताया और इसमें अपनी हिस्सेदारी बढ़ाई। चार वर्षों के भीतर यह एक नवरत्न कंपनी बन गई है। वित्त मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत आने वाले सार्वजनिक उद्यम विभाग ने मंगलवार को बताया कि वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने एनआरएल को नवरत्न का दर्जा दिया है। एनआरएल में सबसे बड़ी हिस्सेदारी ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड की है, जिसके पास 69.63 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है, जबकि असम सरकार की हिस्सेदारी 26 प्रतिशत और इंजीनियर्स इंडिया लिमिटेड की 4.37 प्रतिशत है। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि नवरत्न का दर्जा कंपनी की वित्तीय और परिचालन स्वायत्तता को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ाएगा।

मऊ में खनिज तेल की तलाश में पहुंची ऑयल इंडिया की टीम शहरोज गांव में तमसा नदी किनारे खोदाई शुरू

कोपागंज (मऊ)। कोपागंज ब्लॉक के शहरोज गांव में पेट्रोलियम की तलाश में ऑयल इंडिया की 1800 सदस्यों की टीम ने बुधवार को यहां खोदाई शुरू की। तमसा नदी किनारे बसे गांव में खनिज तेल मिलने की संभावना जताई जा रही है। इससे पहले भी 2013 में कोपागंज ब्लॉक के इंदारा में पेट्रोलियम पदार्थ की तलाश की गई थी। लेकिन दो महीने बाद तेल न मिलने पर खोदाई बंद कर दी गई थी। 15 वर्ष पूर्व क्षेत्र में पेट्रोलियम की संभावना जताई गई थी। उसी सर्वेक्षण के आधार पर कंपनी अब दोबारा वैज्ञानिक परीक्षण व खोदाई करने जा रही है।

कंपनी के सेक्शन इंचार्ज गौरव बेलवाल ने बताया कि बुधवार को विस्फोट आधारित तकनीक के जरिये खोदाई शुरू की गई। ऑयल इंडिया की 1800 सदस्यीय टीम प्रोजेक्ट में जुटी है। इसमें से पहले दिन 750 कर्मचारी खोदाई और परीक्षण प्रक्रिया में सक्रिय रहे। गौरव बेलवाल ने बताया कि गांव के 80 से ज्यादा किसानों के खेत में खोदाई की जा रही है। बोरिंग के बाद विस्फोट कर जमीन के नीचे दो लेयर में नमूने लिए जाएंगे। इसे परखने के लिए देहरादून प्रयोगशाला भेजा जाएगा। बताया



कि जिन खेतों में फसल लगी है, उसका मुआवजा भी दिया जाएगा। बताया कि 20 दिन पहले सर्वे किया गया, इसके बाद बुधवार को टीम ने कार्य शुरू किया।

खोदाई से हुआ धमाका भूकंप की होती रही चर्चा : सर्वे के बाद खेतों में कार्य शुरू करने के दौरान 20 से 60 फीट तक गड़ढे खोदने के बाद इसमें विस्फोट किया गया। इससे हुए कंपन को लेकर सोशल मीडिया पर भूकंप की चर्चा होती रहा। हालांकि कुछ समय बाद स्थिति साफ होने पर मौके पर ग्रामीणों की भीड़ लग गई।