

CABINET APPROVES BUDGETARY SUPPORT

OMCs to get ₹30K-cr to cover losses

● ₹300 Ujjwala subsidy extended to FY26, to cost ₹12,000 crore

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, August 8

THE UNION CABINET on Friday approved ₹30,000 crore budgetary support to state-run oil marketing companies to cover their under-recoveries on the sale of liquified petroleum gas (LPG).

In addition, the Cabinet also approved the targeted subsidy of ₹300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 9 refills per year to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) during FY26 at an expenditure of ₹12,000 crore.

The scheme launched in May 2016 aims to provide a deposit-free LPG connection to adult women from poor households across the country. As on July 1, there are about 103.3 million PMUY connections across the country.

As per the existing modalities of Ujjwala 2.0, the first refill and stove are also provided free of cost to all beneficiaries. PMUY beneficiaries are not required to make any payments

STRETCHING THE GAINS

■ PMUY scheme launched in May 2016

■ Aims to provide a deposit-free LPG connection to poor households



■ As per Ujjwala 2.0, the first refill and stove are also provided free of cost

■ 68 refills in 2022-23 has improved to about **4.47** during FY25



for the LPG connection or the first refill or stove as the cost for these is borne by the government or OMCs.

To shield PMUY beneficiaries from the impact of sharp fluctuations in international prices of LPG and to make it more affordable to consumers, the government started a targeted subsidy of ₹200 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 kg connections) to the PMUY consumers in May 2022.

In October 2023, the government increased the targeted subsidy to ₹300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 kg connections).

As per the government data, average per capita consumption of PMUY consumers was only about three refills in FY20 and 3.68 refills in FY23 has improved to about 4.47 during FY25.

The distribution of the compensation of ₹30,000 crore announced within the three OMCs — Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum — will be done by the ministry of petroleum and Natural Gas. The compensation will be paid in twelve tranches, the government said.

Domestic LPG Cylinders are supplied at regulated prices to consumers by the public sector oil marketing companies. The international prices of LPG remained at high levels during

FY25 and continue to remain high. However, to insulate consumers from fluctuations in international LPG prices, the increase in cost was not passed on to consumers of domestic LPG, which led to significant losses for the three OMCs.

This compensation will allow the OMCs to continue meeting their critical requirements such as crude and LPG procurement, servicing of debt, and sustaining their capital expenditure, thereby ensuring an uninterrupted supply of LPG cylinders to households across the country, the government said.

The government in April had hiked the excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹2 each.

However, the public sector oil marketing companies had not increased the retail prices of petrol and diesel.

The hike in excise duty was made to help offset a ₹43,000 crore loss incurred by oil marketing companies due to subsidised gas prices.

In addition to the hike in excise duties, the government had also increased the price of LPG cylinders by ₹50 in April, applicable to both Ujjwala beneficiaries and non-Ujjwala consumers.

Prices of LPG in the country are linked to its price in the international market. The government continues to modulate the effective price to consumers for domestic LPG.



China defends buying Russian oil

Bloomberg

China said imports of Russian oil are justified, pushing back against US threats of new tariffs after Washington slapped secondary levies on India for buying energy from Moscow.

"It is legitimate and lawful for China to conduct normal economic, trade and energy cooperation with all countries around the world, including Russia," said the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Friday in a statement to Bloomberg News. "We will continue to adopt reasonable energy security measures in accordance with our national interests."

Trump said earlier this week he could punish China with additional tariffs over its purchases of Russian oil, saying "that may happen".



The US President has also signalled his interest in brokering a peace deal in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and views pressure on big Russian trade partners to be part of that effort.

Russian President Vladimir Putin met this week with Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff for nearly three hours of

talks in the Kremlin. Trump on Wednesday said there was a "very good chance" he'd meet with Putin, though cautioned there had not yet been a "breakthrough" in the talks.

Chinese President Xi Jinping welcomed direct communications between Putin and Trump on Friday during his first known call with the Russian leader in months.

Xi also set out China's position on Ukraine to Putin, describing the situation as a set of complex issues with no simple solutions, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

'MAY HURT THE US'

Although Trump has warned over China's purchases of Russian oil, his top adviser Peter Navarro played down the likelihood of new tariffs on Chinese exports, saying

higher duties "may hurt the US". When asked about Trump's comments on Thursday, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Fox News tariffs on China over oil purchases "could be on the table at some point".

China's imports from Russia edged up in July to just over \$10 billion – the highest level since March – according to the latest customs data. But overall this year, imports from Russia are still down 7.7 per cent compared with the same period in 2024.

US-China ties have steadied after the two sides agreed to put sky-high tariffs on hold as they seek to negotiate an agreement. Trump said this week he was getting "very close" to a deal with China to extend the truce, which is due to expire on Tuesday.

CABINET DECISIONS

₹30,000 cr LPG subsidy to compensate oil firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 8 August

The Cabinet on Friday approved ₹30,000 crore LPG subsidy to state-run oil companies — Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) — to compensate for losses incurred from selling LPG at below cost over the past 15 months.

The compensation to oil marketing companies (OMCs) will be paid in 12 tranches, according to an official statement.

The international prices of LPG were at high levels during 2024-25 and continue to remain high. However, to insulate consumers from fluctuations in international LPG prices, the increase in cost was not passed on to consumers of domestic LPG, leading to significant losses for the three OMCs.

Despite the losses, public sector oil marketing companies



The compensation will allow OMCs to continue meeting critical requirements such as crude and LPG procurement

have ensured continuous supplies of domestic LPG in the country at affordable prices.

“The Union Cabinet chaired by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved compensation amounting to ₹30,000 crore to the three Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPCL & HPCL) for the under-recoveries incurred on sale of domestic LPG,” the statement said.

This compensation will allow OMCs to continue meeting their critical requirements such as crude and LPG procurement, servicing of debt, and sustaining their capital expenditure, thereby ensuring uninterrupted supply of LPG cylinders to households across the country, it added.

The distribution of the compensation within the OMCs will be done by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

“This step also underlines the government’s commitment to protect consumers from volatility in global energy markets while maintaining the financial health of these PSU OMCs,” the statement said.

Cabinet okays ₹30K-cr LPG subsidy for state-run oil firms

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved Rs 30,000 crore LPG subsidy for state-run oil marketing companies.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the decision had been taken to keep LPG prices affordable for the middle class. "To make LPG affordable, Rs 30,000 crore has been approved for subsidy in the Cabinet meeting. In the current geopolitical situation, this subsidy will insulate middle-class families and will keep them unaffected," the minister said.

According to the petroleum ministry, the amount will be paid in 12 parts to Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas would decide on sharing the compensation among the firms. The payment would be made in 12 instalments.

Global LPG prices have stayed high since 2024. To protect consumers from price fluctuations, the companies absorbed heavy losses but continued supplying domestic LPG at affordable rates.

The compensation would help the companies meet key expenses such as crude and LPG procurement, debt servicing and capital spending, ensuring uninterrupted supply of LPG cylinders to households.

DEVELOPMENT PACKAGES FOR ASSAM, TRIPURA

- The Cabinet on Friday okayed four new components under the existing Central Sector Scheme of Special Development Packages (SDPs) for Assam and Tripura with a total outlay of Rs 4,250 crore from the Centre, alongside Rs 3,000 crore support from the Assam Government
- The main components of the package include Rs 500 crore for infra development in Adivasi-inhabited areas of Assam under the 2022 MoS signed with Adivasi groups, Rs 500 crore for development in North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council areas inhabited by Dimasas National Liberation Army and Dimasas People's Supreme Council groups under the 2023 agreement, Rs 3,000 crore for infrastructure in Assam under the 2023 agreement with ULFA groups, and Rs 250 crore for development of tribals in Tripura under the 2024 agreement with NLFT and All Tripura Tiger Force

₹4,200-CR BOOST FOR TECH EDUCATION

- The Union Cabinet on Friday approved the proposal for implementation of the Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Scheme in 275 technical institutions comprising 175 engineering institutions and 100 polytechnics with a total outlay of Rs 4,200 crore for a period from 2025-26 to 2029-30
- "An estimated 275 government/ government-aided technical institutions are expected to be selected and supported under the scheme. This will include selected NITs, State Engineering Institutions, Polytechnics and Affiliating Technical Universities (ATUs). Apart from this, the State/ UT departments handling technical education sector will also be supported through the MERITE scheme," an official statement said.

₹12K-cr for Ujjwala Scheme

The Cabinet also cleared Rs 12,060 crore support for PM Ujjwala beneficiaries for 2025-26. This includes Rs 300 subsidy per cylinder for eligible users and would cover 10.33 crore households, reaching around 45 crore people.

They PMUY, launched in

2016, was set up to give deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from poor households across India. As of July 1, 2025, there are around 10.33 crore PMUY connections in the country. In 2024-25, the total spending under the PM Ujjwala Yojana was Rs 52,000 crore.



Puri allays concern on E20 fuel hit to vehicle engines

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NEW DELHI

Petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday dismissed concerns that ethanol-blended petrol was harming vehicles, saying that E20 fuel, which comprises 80% petrol and 20% ethanol, reduces performance by a marginal 1-3% and causes no engine failures.

Amid public outcry over mileage loss, Puri called ethanol-blending a "very successful story" that cuts oil imports and benefits farmers. India, he said, has rolled out E20 several years ahead of schedule.

"Biofuels is more than just ethanol, but ethanol is a very big story...And there is no problem with the engine. The German, Japanese, all of them will tell you they're running the same engine there," Puri said at an event. "But I've never heard of engine failure (after using E20 fuel)," he added.

"We are in a happy situation of having done E20 five or six years in advance. As we proceed, I'm very sure, and we have comfort level with the ecosystem, the feed and everything. We will gradually raise it," Puri said.

Citing Brazil's 27% ethanol-blending, Puri said India's bio-fuel usage would also rise gradually as the country's energy demand rises.

He said the government was running pilot projects to leverage seaweed found in abundance on Indian coasts to make sustainable aviation fuel. Bamboo was another source for the green fuel.

India has also started making sustainable aviation fuel from used cooking oil, the minister said.

For an extended version of the story, go to livemint.com.

Cabinet approves Rs 30,000 cr subsidy to compensate oil firms for cooking gas losses

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In a move to mitigate domestic consumers from the burden of high international energy prices, the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday sanctioned Rs 30,000 crore compensation to three government-run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) — Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) — for under-recoveries suffered on selling domestic LPG in 2024-25. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas will administer the disbursement of the compensation, to be paid in



Ashwini Vaishnaw PIC/NAVEEN SHARMA

Also approves Rs 12,000 cr under PM Ujjwala Yojana for FY26

12 instalments.

These OMCs sell domestic LPG cylinders to consumers at controlled prices in their homes. Though international LPG prices remained high **Continued on P4**

Cabinet approves

during 2024-25, the government did not transmit the high cost to consumers, leading to heavy financial losses for the companies. Yet, the three OMCs ensured the uninterrupted availability of domestic LPG at reasonable prices, supporting the households by bearing the price shocks.

The government officials stated that the compensation will enable the companies to fulfil vital operating requirements, such as crude procurement and LPG, servicing debt and maintaining capital spending. It will also ensure the sustained distribution of LPG cylinders to all parts of the nation, underlining the government's target of providing clean cooking fuel to all households.

This move reiterates the government's focus to protect consumers from fluctuations in international energy prices as well as the financial health of PSU OMCs," a statement read. It further stated that the move also aids flagship welfare programmes like the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), which has remained at the centre of LPG distribution growth in rural and economically weaker sections.

Concurrently, the Cabinet has also sanctioned the renewal of a specific subsidy of Rs 300 on every 14.2 kg cylinder for a maximum of nine refills in a year (proportionately applicable for 5 kg cylinders) for the benefit of PMUY beneficiaries for 2025-26, with an estimated cost of Rs 12,000 crore.

In May 2016, PMUY was launched to give deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from poor families. As of July 1, 2025, approximately 10.33 crore PMUY connections have been issued throughout the nation. The beneficiaries get the security deposit on the cylinder, regulator, safety hose, domestic gas consumer card, and installation charges free of cost, in addition to a complimentary first refill and stove. Since India imports nearly 60 per cent of its LPG demand, foreign price volatility directly impacts domestic prices. To ensure cooking gas remains affordable for PMUY beneficiaries, the government introduced a targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per cylinder of 14.2 kg in May 2022, which was increased to Rs 300 in October 2023.

The subsidy has left a visible footprint on the consumption levels. Per capita consumption in PMUY households has gone up from an average of three refills during 2019-20 to 4.47 refills in 2024-25, which points towards growth and continuity in LPG usage.

‘Vilifying ethanol blending won’t work’

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/COIMBATORE

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri refuted assertions about the impact on vehicular efficiency with the use of ethanol-blended fuel.

At an event in New Delhi, he addressed them as part of a “vilification campaign” being facilitated by “vested, economic interests” which won’t work.

Mr. Puri said similar attempts were made when compressed biogas was introduced. “You must have faith in your agriculture,

biomass, annadaata and urjadaata. Things will work out,” he argued.

This follows a similar assertion by Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.

‘Scientifically proven’
Meanwhile, Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association, an industry body backed the government’s claim saying, India’s ethanol blending programme is scientifically validated, globally proven, strategically crucial for the nation’s energy independence, while also ensuring farmers’ welfare.

'Russia is not Iran, India can't halt oil imports on demand'

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India cannot cancel oil imports from Russia as it did six years ago with Iran and Venezuela, given the difference in the scale and importance of the relationship, said experts, warning that the U.S.'s actions against India were damaging the relationship built over decades. In 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump had in his first term, demanded that India "zero out" its oil imports from Iran and Venezuela. India had eventually complied with the demand before the deadline in May 2019.

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump signed an executive order levying a 25% penalty on top of 25% tariffs on Indian goods, unless India cut energy purchases from

Russia, which currently make up more than 35% of its oil imports. The penalty would take effect on August 27, unless Russia stops the war in Ukraine. The threat is expected to add pressure on both India and Russia ahead of a meeting between Mr. Trump and President Vladimir Putin next week, and the upcoming visit by Mr. Putin to India for the annual summit with Mr. Modi.

'Russia a major power'

"At the global level, Russia is not Iran," former Indian Ambassador to the U.S. Arun Singh told *The Hindu*. "We want Russia, as one of the major powers in the international context, to be an important partner of India, and there's a memory in India of Russia in the past providing political



support [and] ...defence technology that nobody else was willing to provide," he added, also warning that if India were to cave in to Mr. Trump's demands, this would only increase the U.S.'s appetite to demand more concessions from India.

According to scholar Brahma Chellaney, the U.S. move on Russian oil is a cover to strong-arm India into accepting trading terms the U.S. wants.

 We want Russia, as one of the major powers in the international context, to be an important partner of India

ARUN SINGH
Former Indian Ambassador to U.S.

"[Mr.] Trump is weaponising Russian oil purchases to force a largely one-sided trade deal on India," said Mr. Chellaney, who is a Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin. He pointed out that technically, the U.S. has not sanctioned Russian oil, nor has it subscribed to the European Union's latest price cap on it. Mr. Trump

had also not penalised China, which is the world's largest importer of Russian oil. "Cutting Indian purchases of Russian oil is unlikely to make him back off. He wants a trade deal on his terms," Mr. Chellaney added. Until recently, India imported about 2 million barrels a day, and is the second largest importer of Russian oil.

Perception change

Mr. Singh pointed to the past 25 years as a period of building trust between the two countries, and a steady improvement in relations after the previous era, where India had seen the U.S. as a "coercive and an unreliable partner". Since 2008, after the U.S. helped India win exemptions at the International Atomic Energy Agency and

the Nuclear Suppliers Group, he said this perception seriously changed. He also said that the U.S. had supplied drones and winter clothing to India during the China stand-off at the Line of Actual Control at "short notice".

"But because of what President Trump has done in India, there's a resurrection of the old and bitter memories," said Mr. Singh, who is a Senior Fellow at Delhi-based Carnegie India centre and Professor at Ashoka University. "So the U.S. may feel that they are putting some penalties on India, I would say that they are putting high tariffs and penalties more on the U.S.-India relationship. It will take some time for the relationship to come out from this shock that has been generated," he added.

Oil firms to get ₹30,000 cr. for subsidised LPG

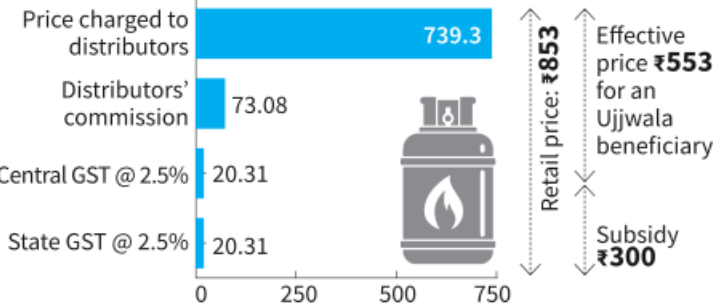
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved compensation worth ₹30,000 crore to be paid to three public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) for subsidising the sale of cooking gas at a time of soaring global prices.

The Cabinet also approved a targeted subsidy of ₹300 per 14.2 kg gas cylinder for up to nine refills per year to the poor households who are beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). The scheme will get an ad-

Fuel breakdown

The retail selling price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi is ₹853. A look at the price buildup of an LPG refill as it reaches a customer



PRICE AS ON AUGUST 1, 2025

SOURCE: PETROLEUM PLANNING & ANALYSIS CELL

ditional ₹12,000 crore from the Centre during the current financial year 2025-26. Opposition parties have slammed the scheme, noting only the

first refill is provided free and many beneficiaries could not afford to refill again at full cost, without subsidy.

“Average Per Capita Consumption (PCC) of PMUY consumers, which was only about 3 refills in 2019-20 and 3.68 refills in 2022-23, has improved to about 4.47 during 2024-25,” the government said.

The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Indian Oil Corporation Limited are the three public sector firms that will receive compensation for the under-re-

coveries incurred on their sale of domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas will make the payout in 12 tranches.

“The international prices of LPG remained at high levels during 2024-25 and continue to remain high. However, to insulate consumers from fluctuations in international LPG prices, the increase in cost was not passed on to consumers of domestic LPG which led to significant losses for the three OMCs...,” the Union government said in a statement.

‘No instructions from govt to stop or continue buying Russian oil’

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Indian government has neither directed its oil companies to halt nor continue the purchase of Russian oil, instead allowing them the freedom to make procurement decisions purely based on economic considerations, HPCL's chairman said on Friday.

Russian crude oil made up for just 13.2 per cent of all the crude that Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) processed into fuels like petrol and diesel in the April-June quarter, and a complete stoppage of oil from Moscow will not have any "significant" impact, HPCL chairman Vikas Kaushal said at an investor call.

US President Donald Trump earlier this week announced he would impose an additional 25 per cent tariff on US imports from India — raising the overall duty to 50 per cent — as a penalty for the country's continued imports of Russian oil. Since the steep tariffs are likely to hit the \$27 billion of non-exempt exports that India does to the US, there has been chatter around stopping or curtailing oil imports from Russia.

There is "no guidance or direction from the government to either stop or (continue) importing" Russian oil, Kaushal said. "We are free to do" imports based on purely commercial merits, he said.

India was the largest importer of Russian crude, purchasing 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) in July. However, it has not placed any orders for



Russian crude oil made up for just 13.2% of all crude that HPCL processed into fuels like petrol & diesel in Q1 FY26, its chairman Vikas Kaushal said

August and September, mainly because the discounts that initially encouraged Indian refiners to import oil from the Black Sea have decreased to about \$2 per barrel. With such a minimal price advantage compared to other internationally available oil, Indian refiners did not place any orders for August and September. Oil companies typically secure import contracts about two months in advance, meaning the supplies for August and September were arranged before Trump's August 7 announcement of higher tariffs.

India is currently stepping up efforts to diversify its crude import basket further.

Kaushal stated that the Russian crude forming just 13.2 per cent of the entire crude intake

Highlights

- » India was the largest importer of Russian crude, purchasing 1.6 million bpd in July
- » However, it has not placed any orders for August & Sept, mainly because the discounts have decreased to about \$2 per barrel
- » Oil cos typically secure import contracts about two months in advance, meaning supplies for August & September were arranged before Trump's announcement of higher tariffs

in HPCL's refineries was purely driven by commercial reasons and not geopolitics.

Economics dictated that only the Vizag refinery of HPCL processed Russian crude in Q1 while Mumbai looked at other sources, he said. "It's not because of any geopolitical reason. It was an economic decision based on what we needed to run in our refineries." He went on to add that even in a scenario where all of the Russian crude oil has to be replaced, "it will not have any significant commercial impact".

HPCL remains open to buying Russian oil if it becomes competitively priced again, he said, adding that the company would be able to absorb the financial loss for not processing Russian oil.

RUSSIAN OIL BUY ON ECONOMICS, NO GOVT GUIDANCE: HPCL

New Delhi, Aug. 8: The Indian government has neither directed its oil companies to halt nor continue the purchase of Russian oil, instead allowing them the freedom to make procurement decisions purely based on economic considerations, HPCL's chairman said.

Russian crude oil made up for just 13.2 per cent of all the crude that HPCL processed into fuels like petrol and diesel in the April-June quarter, and a complete stoppage of oil from Moscow will not have any "significant" impact, HPCL chairman Vikas Kaushal said at an investor call.

India purchased 1.6 million barrels per day in July. It has not placed any orders for August and Sept. as the discounts that initially encouraged Indian refiners to import oil from the Black Sea have decreased to about \$2 per barrel. — PTI

IMPORT BILL TO RISE BY \$9 BN WITHOUT RUSSIAN OIL: REPORT

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, AUG. 8

India is likely to face a significant jump of about \$12-billion oil import bill if the country stops buying Russian crude oil for the rest of the financial year 2025-26. "The fuel bill is expected to surge by \$9 billion in FY26 and \$11.7 billion in FY27 due to an increase in prices," a SBI report said on Friday.

While the potential increase in the import bill is significant, India's diversified supply network and established contracts with other oil-producing nations may help cushion the impact, the report further said.

Cabinet clears ₹12K-cr LPG subsidy, ₹30K-cr for OMCs

Okays ₹4,250cr development package for Assam, Tripura

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 8

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved a subsidy of ₹30,000 crores to the three public sector oil marketing companies — Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) — to compensate for losses incurred from selling LPG at below cost over the past 15 months. The Union Cabinet also approved a subsidy of ₹12,000 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for 2025-26, benefitting 10.33 crore households.

In a statement, the gov-

■ **THE MINISTRY** of petroleum and natural gas will distribute the compensation to oil marketing companies in 12 tranches

ernment said that domestic LPG cylinders are supplied at regulated prices to consumers by the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs). The international prices of LPG remained at high levels during 2024-25 and continue to remain high.

"To insulate consumers from fluctuations in international LPG prices, the increase in cost was not passed on to consumers of domestic LPG, which led

to significant losses for the three OMCs," the statement said, adding that despite the losses, the public sector oil marketing companies have ensured continuous supplies of domestic LPG in the country at affordable prices.

The ministry of petroleum and natural gas will distribute the compensation to oil marketing companies (OMCs) in 12 tranches. As per the official statement, this compensation will allow the OMCs to continue meeting their critical requirements, such as crude and LPG procurement, servicing of debt, and sustaining their capital expenditure,

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Cabinet clears LPG subsidy

■ Continued from Page 1

thereby ensuring uninterrupted supply of LPG cylinders to households across the country.

"This step also underlines the government's commitment to protect consumers from volatility in global energy markets while maintaining the financial health of these PSU OMCs. It also reaffirms the objective of ensuring the widespread availability of clean cooking fuel to all consumers of domestic LPG, including those under flagship schemes like PM Ujjwala Yojana," the government said.

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the targeted subsidy of ₹300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to nine refills per year (and proportionately pro-rated for a five kg cylinder) to the beneficiaries of PMUY during Financial Year 2025-26 at an expenditure of ₹12,000 crores, benefitting 10.33 crore households.

The PMUY was launched in May 2016 to provide free LPG connections to adult women from poor households across the country. As of July 1, there were about 10.33 crore PMUY connections in India.

On Friday, the Union Cabinet also approved four new components under the existing Central sector scheme of special development packages (SDPs) for Assam and Tripura with a total outlay of ₹4,250 crores.

Mr Vaishnaw said that the overall outlay of the proposed four new components will be ₹7,250 crores, out of which ₹4,250 crores will be provided

under the existing Central sector scheme of SDPs for Assam (₹4,000 crores) and Tripura (₹250 crores). The remaining ₹3,000 crores will be contributed by the Assam government from their resources.

Out of ₹4,250 crores, an outlay of ₹4,000 crores for a period of five years from Financial Year 2025-26 to 2029-30 is for three components of Assam, and an outlay of ₹250 crores for a period of four years from Financial Year 2025-26 to 2028-29 is for one component of Tripura as per the memorandum of settlements signed between the Union Government and the governments of Assam and Tripura with respective ethnic groups of the concerned states.

The scheme is specifically targeted towards Assam and Tripura. It will promote equity through improving the socio-economic condition of vulnerable and marginalised groups of people who have not benefited adequately from various existing government schemes.

"It will boost employment opportunities, provide health services, promote education and skilling and income through livelihood activities for youth and women and increase the inflow of tourists from other parts of the country, thereby creating additional employment and livelihood opportunities for the people of the northeastern region," the government said.

Through this, lakhs of people across Adivasi and Dimas communities in Assam, people residing in various other districts of Assam and tribal communities of Tripura will benefit.

LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING PUTIN LATER THIS YEAR: PM

Modi and Putin discuss deepening ties amid row over Trump tariff on Russia oil

Xi and Putin too hold talks, China welcomes Modi's likely visit to SCO summit in Tianjin

DIVYAA & SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

AMID THE tension in ties with the US after President Donald Trump doubled the tariff on India over its purchase of Russian oil, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin held a phone conversation Friday during which they discussed "the latest developments on Ukraine" and "reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership".

Modi said he looked forward to hosting Putin in India later this year. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, who travelled to Moscow this week and met Putin, had also said that the President would be visiting India.

The Kremlin, meanwhile, issued a statement indicating a likely meeting between Putin and Trump next week over the war in Ukraine.

The Modi-Putin conversation took place three days after Russia criticised Trump's tariff action and backed India's right to choose its trading partners. "Sovereign countries have the right to choose their own trading partners," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting of the Security Council, Friday. The Kremlin indicated a likely meeting between Putin and US President Donald Trump next week. PTI

Modi and Putin discuss deepening ties

On Thursday, the Prime Minister, in his first remarks after the doubling of tariffs on India ahead of more negotiations for a trade deal that has run into Indian red lines insensitive areas such as agriculture and dairy, said the country "will never compromise on the interests of its farmers, livestock rearers and fisherfolk". He said he knew that the "personally will have to pay a very heavy price", but he was "ready for it".

After his talk with Putin, Modi, in a post on X, said, "Had a very good and detailed conversation with my friend President Putin. I thanked him for sharing the latest developments on Ukraine. We also reviewed the progress in our bilateral agenda, and reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. I look forward to hosting President Putin in India later this year."

The Prime Minister's Office, in a statement, said Putin briefed the PM on the latest developments concerning Ukraine. "While thanking President Putin for his detailed assessment, the Prime Minister reiterated India's consistent position for peaceful resolution of the conflict."

"The two leaders also reviewed progress in the bilateral agenda, and reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen the Special and Privileged

Strategic Partnership between India and Russia. Prime Minister invited President Putin to India later this year for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit," the PMO statement said.

The Russian government, in its statement, said, "In view of the two countries' special and privileged strategic partnership, Vladimir Putin shared the key outcomes of his meeting with US Presidential Special Envoy Steven Witkoff, held in Moscow on August 6."

Witkoff, one of Trump's trusted advisors, has been conducting shuttle diplomacy between Russia and Ukraine among other conflicts. His meeting with Putin this week is said to have paved the way for a possible Trump-Putin meeting. Incidentally, Doval met Putin after the Witkoff-Putin meeting.

The sense in New Delhi is that if there is progress in the talks between the American and Russian Presidents on resolving the war, it will hold the key to the US backing off on the additional 25 per cent penalty on India for buying Russian oil.

The Russian statement also said, "Narendra Modi thanked Russia's President for the information and reaffirmed India's unwavering stance in favour of settling the situation around Ukraine by political and diplomatic means." This has been

Delhi's position since the early days of the war when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. In fact, this has been conveyed to the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine on a number of occasions, including last year when Modi made back-to-back visits to Moscow, Kyiv and Kazan.

"The leaders also exchanged views on topical issues of the bilateral agenda, including trade, economic, and investment cooperation," the Russian statement said, alluding to stronger cooperation in trade and economics.

Earlier in the day, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Putin spoke over the phone. Chinese state broadcaster CCTV quoted Xi as telling Putin that Beijing will maintain its stance on the need for peace talks and a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine conflict.

Meanwhile, China welcomed Modi's planned visit to the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Tianjin later this month, expressing hope that the event would be a "gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results". New Delhi is still to announce the visit — it will be Modi's first visit to China after 2018.

According to a PTI report from Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun, responding to a question on reports about Modi's visit to China for the Tianjin summit

from August 31 to September 1, said, "China welcomes Prime Minister Modi to China for the SCO Tianjin Summit."

"We believe that with the concerted effort of all parties, the Tianjin summit will be a gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results, and the SCO will enter a new stage of high-quality development featuring greater solidarity, coordination, dynamism and productivity," Guo said.

Russia is also part of the SCO grouping, along with India, China, Pakistan and Iran.

Responding to Trump's remarks suggesting secondary tariffs on China over its purchase of Russian oil, Guo said, "China's position on this issue is consistent and clear. It is legitimate and lawful for China to engage in economic, trade and energy cooperation with other countries, including Russia. We will continue to take energy supply measures that are right for China based on our national interests."

India made a similar statement Wednesday when Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs said, "We have already made clear our position on these issues, including the fact that our imports are based on market factors and done with the overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India."

'Govt hasn't directed oil firms anything on Russian imports'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Indian government has neither instructed oil companies to halt nor continue the import of Russian crude oil, instead allowing them the autonomy to make procurement decisions based solely on economic considerations, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) Chairman Vikas Kaushal said on Friday.

Speaking during an investor call, Kaushal emphasised that a complete stoppage of oil imports from Russia would not have any "significant" impact on HPCL's operations.

"There is no guidance or direction from the government to either stop or continue importing Russian oil," Kaushal stated.

"We are free to make import decisions based purely on commercial merits."

Russian crude accounted for just 13.2% of all the crude processed by HPCL into products like petrol and diesel during the April-June quarter of the current fiscal year. The company processed a total of

6.66 million tonnes of crude oil during this period.

Kaushal clarified that the relatively low share of Russian crude in HPCL's overall feedstock mix was driven entirely by economic factors.

"It's not because of any geopolitical reason. It was an economic decision based on what we needed to run in our refineries," he said. Only the Vizag refinery processed Russian crude in Q1, while the Mumbai refinery sourced oil from other regions.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump announced earlier this week that he would impose an additional 25% tariff on US imports from India, raising the total duty to 50% as a penalty for the country's continued purchases of Russian oil.

India remained the largest buyer of Russian crude in July, importing 1.6 million barrels per day.

However, reports indicate that India has not placed any orders for Russian oil for August and September, as discounts on Russian crude narrowed to just \$2 per barrel.



There is no guidance or direction from the government to either stop or continue importing Russian oil

Vikas Kaushal,
Chairman, HPCL

No govt directive on Russian oil, free to scout for alternatives if not feasible: HPCL

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

PUBLIC SECTOR refiner Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has cut down on processing Russian oil as it has lost much of its price advantage over competing crude grades, and not because of geopolitical considerations or any signal from the government, according to the company's chairman and managing director Vikas Kaushal.

In a post-earnings analyst call, Kaushal said while HPCL has not received any directive so far from the government on import of Russian crude, the refiner is free to look at alternatives if it were to completely stop buying Russian crude in the future due to any sanctions-related reason.

Russian crude's share in crude oil processed by HPCL contracted significantly to 13.2 per cent in the quarter ended June 30, primarily due to lower discounts hitting the competitiveness of Moscow's barrels, according to the HPCL chairman.

According to a recent report by brokerage firm Nomura, the implied discount on Russian crude oil for Indian refiners was estimated to have declined to around \$2.2 per barrel in 2024-25 from over \$12 per barrel in 2022-23.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

● No directive on Russian oil: HPCL

"It's not that we are not buying Russian crude; those decisions are still open. It's just that whatever is economical will be bought," Kaushal said in the analyst call.

"We are free to look at alternatives as and when economic situations present (themselves). If we were not to buy Russian crude for any sanctions-related reasons, the impact would not be too significant for us," he said.

The HPCL chairman's comments come amid trade tensions between India and the US, with Indian refiners' hefty imports of Russian crude surfacing as a major irritant for the Trump administration. Earlier this week, Trump announced an additional 25 per cent tariff – over and above the 25 per cent tariff announced last week on Indian goods – as a penalty for India's Russian oil imports.

New Delhi has called the targeting of India over the purchase of Russian oil "unjustified and unreasonable" and said these imports began as its traditional supplies were diverted to Europe, with the US having "actively encouraged such imports by India for strengthening global energy markets stability".

Indian public sector refiners

have paused Russian oil purchases, which had already slowed down in previous weeks, it is learnt. While the recent slowdown in oil imports from Russia is being seen as a signal by New Delhi to Washington, sources in India's refining sector say that it is also due to discounts on Russian crude narrowing considerably. India has stated over the years that as a country that depends on energy imports, it will buy oil from wherever it gets a good deal, as long as the oil is not under sanctions. Russian oil is not under sanctions, and is only subject to a price cap imposed by the US and its allies that applies if Western shipping and insurance services are used for transporting the oil.

The renewed pressure from the US and other Western powers – pressuring Russia's top trade partners to cut down on imports from the country – are aimed at forcing the Kremlin's hand into ending the Ukraine war. For Trump, who wants the three-year-old Russia-Ukraine war to end within days, this is an opportune time to pressure India over its Russian imports, given the sensitive trade pact talks between New Delhi and Washington.

पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों को 30,000 करोड़ रुपये की एलपीजी सब्सिडी

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

मंत्रिमंडल ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन (आईओसी), भारत पेट्रोलियम (बीपीसीएल) और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम (एचपीसीएल) को पिछले 15 महीने में लागत से कम कीमत पर एलपीजी बेचने से हुए नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए 30,000 करोड़ रुपये की एलपीजी सब्सिडी को शुक्रवार को मंजूरी दे दी।

आधिकारिक बयान के अनुसार, तेल विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) को यह क्षतिपूर्ति 12 किस्तों में दी जाएगी।

वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के दौरान एलपीजी की अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतें उच्च स्तर पर थीं और आगे भी ऊंची बनी रहेंगी। हालांकि, उपभोक्ताओं को अंतरराष्ट्रीय एलपीजी कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव से बचाने के लिए बढ़ी हुई लागत का बोझ घरेलू एलपीजी



उपभोक्ताओं पर नहीं डाला गया जिससे तीनों तेल विपणन कंपनियों को भारी नुकसान हुआ। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनियों ने घाटे के बावजूद देश में किफायती दामों पर घरेलू एलपीजी की निरंतर आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की है। बयान में कहा गया, “प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने घरेलू एलपीजी की बिक्री पर हुए घाटे के लिए तीन सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की

तेल विपणन कंपनियों (आईओसीएल, बीपीसीएल और एचपीसीएल) को 30,000 करोड़ रुपये की क्षतिपूर्ति को मंजूरी दी है।”

इसमें कहा गया, इस क्षतिपूर्ति से तेल विपणन कंपनियां अपनी आवश्यक जरूरतों जैसे कच्चे तेल व एलपीजी की खरीद, ऋण चुकाने और अपने पूंजीगत व्यय को जारी रखने में सक्षम होंगी। इससे देश भर के मकानों में एलपीजी सिलेंडरों की निर्बाध आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित होगी।

तेल विपणन कंपनियों के बीच क्षतिपूर्ति का वितरण पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय द्वारा किया जाएगा। बयान में कहा गया, “यह कदम वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजारों में उतार-चढ़ाव से उपभोक्ताओं की रक्षा करने और साथ ही इन सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनियों की वित्तीय स्थिति को बेहतर बनाए रखने की सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को भी रेखांकित करता है।”

मुख्यमंत्री ने मुहाना सब्जी मंडी में बायो-सीएनजी प्लांट की स्थापना को दी स्वीकृति

जयपुर (एसएनबी)। मुख्यमंत्री भजनलाल शर्मा ने मुहाना फल एवं सब्जी मंडी में जैविक कचरे के प्रबंधन हेतु एक अत्याधुनिक बायो-सीएनजी संयंत्र स्थापित करने की परियोजना को स्वीकृति प्रदान की है। इस परियोजना से मंडी में प्रतिदिन उत्पन्न होने वाले फल और सब्जी के जैविक अपशिष्ट का वैज्ञानिक तरीके से उपचार कर उसे कम्पोस्ट और बायो-सीएनजी में परिवर्तित किया जा सकेगा। इस संयंत्र की स्थापना सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी (पीपीपी) मॉडल के तहत की जाएगी। 27 करोड़ रुपए की इस परियोजना की सम्पूर्ण लागत भारत सरकार के उपक्रम वैंपकोस लिमिटेड द्वारा वहन की जाएगी। यह संयंत्र प्रतिदिन 100 टन जैविक कचरे को प्रोसेस कर 5 टन कम्पोस्ट एवं बायो-सीएनजी उत्पन्न करेगा। संयंत्र की निर्माण अवधि 7 माह निर्धारित की गई है और यह 10 वर्षों तक वैंपकोस लिमिटेड द्वारा संचालित किया जाएगा, जिसके बाद इसकी संपत्ति संबंधित मंडी समिति को हस्तांतरित कर दी जाएगी। इस परियोजना के लिए भूमि एवं जैविक कचरा मंडी समिति द्वारा निःशुल्क उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। परियोजना से हरित ऊर्जा उत्पादन के साथ-साथ सालाना कचरा संग्रहण व परिवहन में खर्च हो रही लगभग 48 लाख रुपए की राशि की बचत भी अनुमानित है। स्वच्छ भारत मिशन, टोस कचरा प्रबंधन विनियम-2016 और जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुरूप की गई इस पहल से मंडी परिसर की स्वच्छता और हाइजीन में सुधार होगा।

‘रूसी तेल पर सरकार से कोई निर्देश नहीं मिला’

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनी एचपीसीएल के चेयरमैन विकास कौशल ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि सरकार ने रूसी तेल की खरीद को रोकने या जारी रखने को लेकर कोई निर्देश नहीं दिया है और पेट्रोलियम कंपनियां केवल आर्थिक आधार पर इस बारे में फैसला कर रही हैं।

हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड के तिमाही नतीजों पर निवेशकों के साथ चर्चा के दौरान कौशल ने कहा कि अप्रैल-जून तिमाही में एचपीसीएल द्वारा रिफाइन किए गए कुल कच्चे तेल में रूसी तेल की

हिस्सेदारी 13.2 प्रतिशत रही और इसकी आपूर्ति पूरी तरह बंद होने पर भी कोई ‘महत्वपूर्ण’ असर नहीं पड़ेगा।

ट्रंप की घोषणा के बाद सरकारी पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों पर रूसी तेल की खरीद को लेकर सरकार से निर्देश आने की संभावना जताई जा रही थी। हालांकि कौशल ने कहा, हम विशुद्ध रूप से व्यावसायिक गुणदोष के आधार पर आयात करने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं।

इसके साथ ही एचपीसीएल चेयरमैन ने कहा कि रूस से अगस्त एवं सितंबर में आपूर्ति के लिए कोई भी ऑर्डर नहीं दिया गया है क्योंकि कच्चे तेल के दाम में

तेल खरीद रोकने से नौ अरब डॉलर का झटका लगेगा



भारतीय स्टेट बैंक की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, यदि भारत रूस से कच्चे तेल का आयात बंद कर दे तो भारत का कच्चे तेल का आयात बिल काफी बढ़ सकता है। एसबीआई के अध्ययन के मुताबिक यदि भारत वित्त वर्ष 2026 के शेष समय के लिए रूस से तेल आयात रोक देता है, तो कीमतों में वृद्धि के कारण ईंधन बिल वित्त वर्ष 2026 में नौ बिलियन डॉलर और वित्त वर्ष 2027 में 11.7 बिलियन डॉलर बढ़ सकता है।

मिल रही छूट घटकर लगभग दो डॉलर प्रति बैरल रह गई है। ऐसे में अन्य स्रोतों से तेल खरीदना लगभग समान लागत पर ही संभव है। उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि

जून तिमाही में रूसी तेल की खरीद सिर्फ 13.2 प्रतिशत ही रखने का फैसला शुद्ध रूप से आर्थिक गणना के आधार पर लिया गया।

केंद्र ने तमिलनाडु में चार लेन राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग को भी स्वीकृति दी मेरिट योजना के तहत ₹4200 करोड़ मंजूर

कैबिनेट के फैसले

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। केंद्र सरकार ने तकनीकी शिक्षण संस्थानों में शिक्षा और अनुसंधान को बढ़ावा देने की योजना को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए बजटीय प्रावधानों को मंजूरी दी है। सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बताया कि केंद्रीय क्षेत्र की इस योजना के लिए कुल वित्तीय भार 2025-26 से 2029-30 तक की अवधि के लिए 4200 करोड़ रुपये है।

उन्होंने बताया कि इस 4200 करोड़ रुपये में से, विश्व बैंक से ऋण के रूप में 2100 करोड़ रुपये की बाहरी सहायता प्राप्त होगी। योजना के तहत 275 सरकारी और सरकारी सहायता प्राप्त तकनीकी संस्थानों के चयन और शिक्षा व अनुसंधान में सहयोग किया जाएगा। इसमें चयनित राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (एनआईटी), राज्य इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान, पॉलिटेक्निक और संबद्ध तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालय (एटीयू) शामिल होंगे। बयान के अनुसार तकनीकी शिक्षा प्रदान करने वाले राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के विभागों को भी मेरिट योजना के माध्यम से सहयोग

उज्ज्वला सब्सिडी से 10 करोड़ परिवारों को लाभ

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि उज्ज्वला योजना ने गरीब महिलाओं के जीवन में बदलाव लाया है। सरकार द्वारा उनके लिए एलपीजी सब्सिडी जारी रखने के फैसले से 10 करोड़ से ज्यादा लाभार्थी परिवारों को लाभ होगा। एक्स पर पोस्ट में मोदी ने कहा कि उज्ज्वला योजना गरीब माताओं-बहनों के जीवन में भारी बदलाव लेकर आई है। उनके हित में एक बड़ा फैसला लेते हुए हमने उन्हें एलपीजी पर मिलने वाली सब्सिडी को जारी रखने की मंजूरी दी है। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि इसका लाभ 10 करोड़ से ज्यादा लाभार्थी परिवारों को होगा।



आदिवासियों के विकास के लिए 7250 करोड़ मंजूर

केंद्र सरकार ने असम और त्रिपुरा के जनजातीय समूहों वाले क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिए चार घटकों में कुल 7250 करोड़ रुपये मंजूर किए हैं। यह कदम पूर्व में भारत सरकार और असम सरकार द्वारा जनजातीय समूहों के साथ हुए समझौते के तहत उठाया गया है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में शुक्रवार को हुई कैबिनेट की बैठक में यह फैसला लिया गया। इन घटकों में जनजाति बहुल गांवों और क्षेत्रों का विकास, जनजातियों का विकास, राज्य में बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास आदि शामिल हैं।

दिया जाएगा। लगभग 7.5 लाख छात्र इस योजना से लाभान्वित होंगे। **मरक्कनम-पुदुचेरी चार लेन हाईवे को मंजूरी दी :** कैबिनेट ने शुक्रवार को तमिलनाडु में मरक्कनम-पुदुचेरी चार लेन नेशनल हाईवे प्रोजेक्ट को मंजूरी दी है। 46 किलोमीटर लंबे मरक्कनम-पुदुचेरी सेक्शन विकसित करने पर लगभग

2,157 करोड़ की लागत आएगी। रेल एवं सूचना प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने पत्रकारों को बताया कि प्रधानमंत्री की अध्यक्षता वाली आर्थिक मामलों की कैबिनेट समिति ने उपरोक्त प्रोजेक्ट को स्वीकृति दे दी है। उन्होंने बताया कि यह हाईवे हाइब्रिड एन्युइटी मोड (एचएएम) के तहत बनाई जाएगी।

रूस से तेल खरीद बंद की तो बढ़ जाएगा आयात बिल

नई दिल्ली, एएनआइ: अगर भारत रूस से कच्चा तेल खरीदना बंद कर देता है तो अगले वित्त वर्ष में उसके तेल आयात बिल में 12 अरब डालर की बढ़ोतरी हो सकती है। भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (एसबीआई) की एक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अगर भारत वित्त वर्ष 2026 की शेष अवधि के लिए रूस से तेल आयात बंद कर देता है तो कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी के चलते ईंधन बिल चालू वित्त वर्ष में नौ अरब डालर बढ़ सकता है। वर्तमान में, वैश्विक कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति में रूस का योगदान 10 प्रतिशत है। अगर सभी देश रूस से तेल खरीदना बंद कर देते हैं, तो क्रूड की कीमतें लगभग 10 प्रतिशत बढ़ जाएंगी।

भारत ने 2022 से रूसी तेल की खरीद में काफी वृद्धि की है। परिणामस्वरूप, भारत के कुल तेल आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी वित्त वर्ष 2020 के 1.7 प्रतिशत से

- चालू वित्त वर्ष में नौ अरब डालर और अगले वर्ष 12 अरब डालर बढ़ जाएगा अतिरिक्त खर्च
- भारत के कुल तेल आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में 35.1 प्रतिशत रही



बढ़कर वित्त वर्ष 2025 में 35.1 प्रतिशत हो गई। मात्रा के लिहाज से, भारत ने वित्त वर्ष 25 में रूस से 8.8 करोड़ टन कच्चा तेल आयात किया, जो उसके कुल 24.5 टन तेल आयात में से एक बड़ा हिस्सा था। रूस पर प्रतिबंध लगाए जाने

रूस से तेल खरीदने या बंद करने को लेकर सरकार ने नहीं दिया कोई निर्देश: एचपीसीएल चेयरमैन

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर: भारत सरकार ने तेल कंपनियों को न तो रूसी तेल खरीदने और न ही रोकने का निर्देश दिया है। एचपीसीएल के चेयरमैन विकास कौशल ने कहा है कि सरकार ने उन्हें पूरी तरह से आर्थिक आधार पर खरीद संबंधी फैसला लेने की स्वतंत्रता दी है। उन्होंने कहा कि मास्को से तेल की आपूर्ति पूरी तरह से बंद होने

पर कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा। भारत रूसी कच्चे तेल का सबसे बड़ा आयातक रहा है। उसने जुलाई में प्रतिदिन 16 लाख बैरल तेल खरीदा था। हालांकि, उसने अगस्त और सितंबर के किसी तरह का कोई आर्डर नहीं दिया है। एचपीसीएल की रिफाइनरियों में कुल खपत का केवल 13.2 प्रतिशत रूसी तेल शामिल रहा।

के बाद से, तेल कंपनियां अमेरिका, पश्चिम अफ्रीका और अजरबैजान से कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति के प्रयास कर रहे हैं। भारत ने अपने तेल स्रोतों का विस्तार लगभग 40 देशों तक कर दिया है। गुयाना, ब्राजील और कनाडा से नए आपूर्ति विकल्प

के तौर पर सामने आए हैं। इससे देश की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा में वृद्धि हुई है। यदि रूस से तेल आपूर्ति बंद हो जाती है तो भारत मौजूदा वार्षिक समझौतों के तहत अपने पारंपरिक पश्चिम एशिया आपूर्तिकर्ताओं के पास फिर से लौट सकता है।

उज्ज्वला योजना : 12 हजार करोड़ की सब्सिडी को केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की मंजूरी

देश के 10.33 करोड़ परिवारों को होगा लाभ

■ पीएम मोदी की अध्यक्षता में हुई केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक में फैसले को दी गई मंजूरी

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नई दिल्ली

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने शुक्रवार को वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत 12,000 करोड़ रुपये की सब्सिडी को मंजूरी दी। प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में हुई केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक में इस फैसले को मंजूरी दी गई।

सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने शुक्रवार को यह जानकारी दी। सरकार के इस फैसले से देश के करीब 10.33 करोड़ परिवारों को लाभ होगा। पीएमयूवाई की शुरुआत मई 2016 में देश भर के गरीब परिवारों की वयस्क महिलाओं को मुफ्त गैस कनेक्शन देने के लिए की गई थी। इस साल एक अगस्त तक देश भर में लगभग 10.33 करोड़ पीएमयूवाई कनेक्शन दिए जा चुके हैं। एक आधिकारिक बयान के मुताबिक,



रसोई गैस का घाटा पूरा करने के लिए 30 हजार करोड़ मंजूर

घरेलू रसोई गैस के वितरण में तीन प्रमुख तेल कंपनियों को हुए घाटे को पूरा करने के लिए कैबिनेट की बैठक में 30 हजार करोड़ रुपये की राशि मंजूर की गई है।

मंत्रिमंडल ने वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के लाभार्थियों को प्रति वर्ष नौ गैस सिलेंडरों पर 300 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर की लिखित सब्सिडी को मंजूरी दे दी है। इस पर 12,000 करोड़ रुपये का खर्च आएगा। भारत अपनी रसोई गैस जरूरतों का लगभग 60 प्रतिशत आयात करता है।

साथ ही मंत्रिमंडल ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन, भारत पेट्रोलियम और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम को पिछले 15 महीने में लागत से कम कीमत पर एलपीजी बेचने से हुए नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए 30,000 करोड़ रुपये की एलपीजी सब्सिडी को शुक्रवार को मंजूरी दे दी।

मेरिट योजना के तहत 4200 करोड़ की मंजूरी

वहीं केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने शुक्रवार को 175 इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों और 100 पॉलिटेक्निक सहित 275 तकनीकी संस्थानों में बहुविषयक शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान सुधार (मेरिट) योजना के कार्यान्वयन के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी। यह केंद्रीय क्षेत्र की योजना है जिसका कुल वित्तीय भार 2025-26 से 2029-30 तक की अवधि के लिए 4,200 करोड़ रुपये है। इस 4,200 करोड़ रुपये में से, विश्व बैंक से ऋण के रूप में 2,100 करोड़ रुपये की बाहरी सहायता प्राप्त होगी। एक आधिकारिक बयान के अनुसार, '275 सरकारी और सरकारी सहायता प्राप्त तकनीकी संस्थानों का इस योजना के अंतर्गत चयन और सहयोग किया जाएगा। इसमें चयनित राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (एनआईटी), राज्य इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान, पॉलिटेक्निक और संबद्ध तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालय (एटीयू) शामिल होंगे।' बयान में कहा गया है, 'इसके अलावा, तकनीकी शिक्षा प्रदान करने वाले राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के विभागों को भी मेरिट योजना के माध्यम से सहयोग दिया जाएगा। लगभग 7.5 लाख छात्र इस योजना से लाभान्वित होंगे।'



रसोई गैस सब्सिडी के लिए ₹ 42 हजार करोड़ मंजूर

कैबिनेट फैसले

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। केंद्र सरकार ने रसोई गैस सब्सिडी के लिए 42000 करोड़ रुपये की मंजूरी दी है। इसमें उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत 12060 करोड़ रुपये स्वीकृत किए गए हैं। इस धनराशि का उपयोग चालू वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 में सब्सिडी के तौर पर किया जाएगा।

संचार मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने शुक्रवार को कैबिनेट फैसलों की जानकारी दी। एलपीजी के लिए 30 हजार करोड़ की सब्सिडी को भी मंजूरी दी है, जिससे रसोई गैस रियायती दरों पर मिलती रहेगी। उज्ज्वला योजना के

इनके लिए भी धन आवंटित

- कैबिनेट ने 175 इंजीनियरिंग और 100 पॉलिटेक्निक कॉलेजों में बहुविषयक शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान सुधार के लिए 4200 करोड़ दिए।
- तमिलनाडु में मरक्कनम-पुदुचेरी नेशनल हाईवे के लिए 2,157 करोड़ रुपये मंजूर किए गए हैं।
- असम और त्रिपुरा के जनजातीय समूहों वाले क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिए कुल 7250 करोड़ स्वीकृत किए गए हैं।

तहत अब तक 52 हजार करोड़ रुपये का लाभ लाखों परिवारों को मिल चुका है। ➤ मेरिट योजना P12

भारत की इथेनॉल यात्रा रुकने वाली नहीं: हरदीप सिंह पुरी

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा है कि भारत की इथेनॉल यात्रा अब रुकने वाली नहीं है और यह अजेय है। एक शिखर सम्मेलन में बात करते हुए पुरी ने कहा कि इथेनॉल मिश्रण ने की यात्रा ने साल 2014 नरेंद्र मोदी के प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद ही गति हासिल की। उन्होंने कहा कि साल 2014 में इथेनॉल मिश्रण मात्र 1.53 फीसदी था जो



कि साल 2022 तक, भारत ने निर्धारित समय से पांच महीने पहले ही 10 फीसदी मिश्रण प्राप्त कर लिया। इथेनॉल-मिश्रित ईंधन के बारे में गलत सूचनाओं और झूठे आख्यानों को दूर करते हुए, पुरी ने जोर देकर कहा कि पिछले 10 महीनों में ई20 के आधार ईंधन बनने के बाद से इंजन की विफलता या ब्रेकडाउन का एक भी मामला सामने नहीं आया है। ब्राजील का उदाहरण देते हुए, उन्होंने कहा कि ये देश वर्षों से बिना किसी समस्या के ई27 पर चल रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि निहित स्वार्थों वाली कुछ लॉबी भ्रम पैदा करने और भारत की इथेनॉल क्रांति को पटरी से उतारने की कोशिश कर रही हैं। हालांकि, ऐसे प्रयास सफल नहीं होंगे।

पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों के लिए 30,000 करोड़ रुपए की एलपीजी सब्सिडी को मिली मंजूरी

तैमव न्यूज ■ नई दिल्ली

मंत्रिमंडल ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (आईओसी), भारत पेट्रोलियम (बीपीसीएल) और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम (एचपीसीएल) को पिछले 15 महीने में लागत से कम कीमत पर एलपीजी बेचने से हुए नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए 30,000 करोड़ रुपए की एलपीजी सब्सिडी को शुक्रवार को मंजूरी दे दी। आधिकारिक बयान के अनुसार, तेल विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) को यह क्षतिपूर्ति 12 किस्तों में दी जाएगी। वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के दौरान एलपीजी की अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतें उच्च स्तर पर थीं और आगे भी उंची बनी रहेंगी। हालांकि, उपभोक्ताओं को अंतरराष्ट्रीय एलपीजी कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव से बचाने के लिए बड़ी हुई लागत का



बोझ घरेलू एलपीजी उपभोक्ताओं पर नहीं डाला गया जिससे तीनों तेल विपणन कंपनियों को भारी नुकसान हुआ। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनियों ने घाटे के बावजूद देश में किफायती दामों पर घरेलू एलपीजी की निरंतर आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की है। बयान में कहा गया, प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने घरेलू एलपीजी की बिक्री

पर हुए घाटे के लिए तीन सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनियों (आईओसीएल, बीपीसीएल और एचपीसीएल) को 30,000 करोड़ रुपए की क्षतिपूर्ति को मंजूरी दी है। इसमें कहा गया, इस क्षतिपूर्ति से तेल विपणन कंपनियां अपनी आवश्यक जरूरतों जैसे कच्चे तेल व एलपीजी की खरीद, ऋण चुकाने और अपने पूंजीगत व्यय को जारी रखने में सक्षम

होंगी। इससे देश भर के मकानों में एलपीजी सिलेंडरों की निर्बाध आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित होगी। तेल विपणन कंपनियों के बीच क्षतिपूर्ति का वितरण पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय द्वारा किया जाएगा। बयान में कहा गया, यह कदम वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजारों में उतार-चढ़ाव से उपभोक्ताओं की रक्षा करने और साथ ही इन सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनियों की वित्तीय स्थिति को बेहतर बनाए रखने की सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को भी रेखांकित करता है।

उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत 12,000 करोड़ रुपए की सब्सिडी को मंत्रिमंडल की मंजूरी

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने शुक्रवार को वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना (पीएमयूवाई) के तहत 12,000 करोड़ रुपए की सब्सिडी को मंजूरी दी। प्रधानमंत्री

नरेन्द्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में हुई केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक में इस फैसले को मंजूरी दी गई। सरकार के इस फैसले से देश के करीब 10.33 करोड़ परिवारों को लाभ होगा। पीएमयूवाई की शुरुआत मई 2016 में देश भर के गरीब परिवारों की वयस्क महिलाओं को मुफ्त गैस कनेक्शन देने के लिए की गई थी। इस साल एक अगस्त तक देश भर में लगभग 10.33 करोड़ पीएमयूवाई कनेक्शन दिए जा चुके हैं। एक आधिकारिक बयान के मुताबिक, मंत्रिमंडल ने वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के लाभार्थियों को प्रति वर्ष नौ गैस सिलेंडरों पर 300 रुपए प्रति सिलेंडर की लक्षित सब्सिडी को मंजूरी दे दी है। इस पर 12,000 करोड़ रुपए का खर्च आएगा। भारत अपनी रसोई गैस जरूरतों का लगभग 60 प्रतिशत आयात करता है।

‘उज्ज्वला’ के लिए 12 हजार करोड़ मंजूर

पीएम उज्ज्वला योजना : एलपीजी सिलेंडर के लिए मोदी सरकार का बड़ा फैसला

**दस करोड़ से ज्यादा लाभार्थी
होंगे लाभान्वित**

● नई दिल्ली, वार्ता

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता वाली कैबिनेट कमेटी ने शुक्रवार को उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत रसोई गैस की खरीदारी में दी जाने वाली सब्सिडी के लिए 12,000 करोड़ रुपये की मंजूरी दे दी। यह राशि चालू वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में दी जाने वाली सब्सिडी के लिए इस्तेमाल होगी और इसका लाभ गैस कनेक्शन रखने वाले 10.33 करोड़ लोगों को मिलेगा।

प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत एक साल में 14.2 किलोग्राम भार वाले नौ सिलेंडर की खरीदारी के लिए सरकार प्रति सिलेंडर 300 रुपए की सब्सिडी देती है। सरकार यह सब्सिडी पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों को देती है। उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत पहली बार गैस कनेक्शन लेने वालों को गैस चूल्हा भी मुफ्त में सरकार मुहैया कराती है।



गैस की अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमत में बढ़ोतरी को देखते हुए सरकार उपभोक्ताओं को सिलेंडर की खरीदारी पर सब्सिडी देती है ताकि उन पर अधिक बोझ नहीं पड़े। घरेलू एलपीजी की कम दाम पर बिक्री करने से पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों को

इस योजना के तहत महिलाओं को एक साल के भीतर 14.2 किलो वाले 9 गैस सिलेंडर पर 300 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर की सब्सिडी मिलती है। यह सब्सिडी सीधे परिवार की महिला मुखिया के खाते में आती है। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि अगर कोई साल में 9 सिलेंडर खरीदता है तो उन्हें 2700 रुपये की सब्सिडी सरकार से मिलेगी।

होने वाली क्षति की पूर्ति के लिए शुक्रवार को कैबिनेट कमेटी ने 30,000 करोड़ रुपए की मंजूरी दे दी। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के माध्यम से आईओसीएस, बीपीसीएल व एचपीसीएल को इस राशि का भुगतान 12 चरणों में किया जाएगा।

मंत्रालय के मुताबिक गत वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में एलपीजी की अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमत काफी अधिक थी और अब भी यह कीमत ऊंची चल रही है। लेकिन एलपीजी कीमत में होने वाली बढ़ोतरी का भार ग्राहकों पर नहीं डाला गया जिस वजह से इन तीन कंपनियों काफी नुकसान उठाना पड़ा। उसकी भरपाई के लिए ही 30,000 करोड़ रुपये की मंजूरी दी गई है।

प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना मई 2016 में शुरू की गई थी। इसका मकसद गरीब परिवारों की महिलाओं को मुफ्त एलपीजी कनेक्शन देना था ताकि महिलाएं लकड़ी या कोयले जैसे हानिकारक ईंधन की बजाय गैस से खाना बना सकें। 1 जुलाई 2025 तक देश भर में प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत 10.33 करोड़ कनेक्शन दिए जा चुके हैं। उज्ज्वला 2.0 के तहत पहली रिफिल और स्टोव भी मुफ्त मिलता है। यानी, लाभार्थियों को कनेक्शन या पहला सिलेंडर और स्टोव लेने के लिए एक भी पैसा नहीं देना पड़ता।