

'To reduce emissions, Govt may exempt LNG from import duty'

India to raise regasification capacity from 21 to 55 mmt, GAIL to build 15,000 km gas pipelines: Pradhan

MPOST BUREAU

BENGALURU: Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced on Saturday that the Union Government will for the first time ever spend from its Budget on augmenting the country's gas pipeline infrastructure. Addressing a meeting in Bengaluru, he said that in addition to building new gas pipelines, India would also increase its gas regasification capacity from 21 mmt to 55 mmt and this increased capacity of 34 mmt would enable the country to push more gas in the market.

On gas economics, he commented that the Government would be willing to consider exempting LNG from import duty like crude oil, given that gas is a clean and environment-friendly fuel and without a doubt will help reduce emissions. The minister referred the KG basin, which is a major gas reserve, as the "North Sea for India". He also spoke about the Gujarat case where the gas share of 26 per cent is higher than the world share of 24 per cent, and referred to the Government's aspiration to replicate this across India.

In his address at the workshop attended by CEOs and senior leaders from the oil & gas industry covering the entire gas value chain, the minister touched on several issues including Climate Change, gas infrastructure and pipelines, domestic gas supply, gas economics and innovative technology to boost the gas share in India's energy mix.



Pradhan stated that Bengaluru is a city where everything starts, and that Bengaluru is a good starting place for creating new gas markets. He began his address on the climate note, observing that India is not the world's most polluting country. He highlighted that India has committed to carbon emission reduction in the COP21 summit and that gas will play a key role in India's drive to combat climate change.

On augmenting gas distribution, GAIL has approximately 15,000 km pipelines laid out for gas transport and plans to build another 15,000 km gas pipelines, Pradhan noted.

In his address to the tech-

nology companies, the minister mentioned the technological innovations and new mechanisms for India, for example Caterpillar developing an economical technology to replace currently used diesel by gas in DG sets. He also stressed that developing India-specific models like Bio CNG, waste to gas, Syn gas from coal etc are the other areas to be looked for innovative economic solutions.

Pradhan also mentioned that there will be enough market to absorb new volumes of gas in India in the form of new anchor customers like 100 new smart cities rather than only relying on the traditional anchor segments like power and ferti-

lizers. Further, urban areas are fast expanding and developing a market for gas, replacing LPG and will help enable channel LPG in rural areas where women use animal waste and fire wood for cooking, which is a big health hazard.

He asked the participants at the workshop to prepare an actionable plan and stressed on implementation and hitting the market rather than an intellectual discussion only or a societal debate. He also advised the group that a successful implementation strategy is one where all parties are aligned and on board and, hence, it is important to convince all stakeholders across the gas value chain.

Earlier, UK Deputy High Commissioner Dominic McAlister complimented the Indian Government on the amazing economic pace and significant policy and regulatory reforms it has achieved.

PTI adds from Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday urged Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for sustained and uninterrupted gas supply to small tea growers. Sonowal, in a telephone discussion with Pradhan, sought to ensure uninterrupted gas supply to tea gardens and soon start the construction work of a speciality hospital in Sivrasagar, proposed by the ONGC.

Pradhan assured all cooperation in supplying gas to small tea growers and assured that construction work of the hospital in Sivrasagar would soon be started, the Chief Minister said on Saturday.

'India needs to promote natural gas-based fuel cell technology'

BENGALURU: More than half the power requirement here of InfoTech MNC Intel's Indian subsidiary is produced from fuel cells using natural gas, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Friday. "Out of Intel's power requirement of 4 mw, 2.5 mw is produced using fuel cell based technology using natural gas developed by Bloom Energy," Pradhan tweeted following a visit to the Intel Research and Development (R&D) centre here. "Visited Intel R&D centre in Bengaluru. The \$12-billion facility is one of the three such facilities in the world," he said. Last month, state-run gas utility GAIL (India) and US-based Bloom Energy signed an agreement to deploy revolutionary natural gas-based fuel cell technology to generate electricity. Gas is already being supplied by GAIL for energising a multi-megawatt Bloom Energy project at the Technology Park here. The technology is currently being used by over 100 of the Fortune 500 companies that are diversified majors in IT, telecom, retailing, e-commerce and consumer goods.

Bloom Energy's solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC) technology converts fuel into electricity using natural gas as the base fuel in a highly efficient non-combustible process that reduces emissions of greenhouse gas and harmful air pollutants, and with minimal use of water. "GAIL is supplying PNG for this to Bloom under an MoU. This Green Energy with no noise & minimal water intake can replace diesel based gensets," Pradhan said in a separate tweet. The minimal use of water is a major consideration here in India's major IT hub, which has witnessed violent street protests this week provoked by the court-mandated release of Cauvery water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu. "Fuel cells can use biogas generated from biomass in rural areas & from municipal wastes in the cities to generate cost-effective green energy," he said.

"There is a need for promoting this technology. With scale the cost of this will become affordable for common & domestic consumers as well," Pradhan added in another tweet. He also visited the LPG Equipment Research Centre (LERC) here that specialises in testing various liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) equipment. "Asked LERC to think out of box; put consumer convenience on top priority & adopt suggestions given by industry experts & innovators," he tweeted after the LERC visit. "Startups have a great role to play with innovations in making LPG more environment-friendly by enhancing efficiency & reducing emissions," he said in another tweet. 185

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Petroleum Minister pushes for Gas-based economy – Announced big expansion for gas pipelines & LNG regasification infrastructure

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Bangalore,

Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas addressed a workshop conducted by PetroFed together with consulting companies IHS Markit and ICF in Bangalore last Saturday. The Minister announced that for the first time ever in the country; Government of India will be spending from its budget on augmenting gas pipeline infrastructure which is proposed to increase from 15,000Km to 30,000 Km. In addition to building the new gas pipeline, he mentioned India is also increasing its gas regasification capacity from 21MMT to 55MMT, and this increased capacity of 34MMT will enable to push more gas in the market. Minister referred the KG basin, which is a major gas reserve, as the "North Sea for India". He also spoke about the Gujarat case, where the gas share is 26%, higher than the world share at 24%, and aspiration to replicate that across India.

The third workshop held is a part of the project supported by British High Commission and was attended by CEO's & senior leaders from the Oil & Gas industry covering the entire gas value chain. In his address, Hon'ble minister touched on several points from climate change, gas infrastructure and pipelines, domestic gas supply, gas economics and innovative technology to boost gas share in India's energy mix.

Minister stated that Bangalore is a city where everything starts, and that Bangalore is a good starting place for creating new gas markets. He began his address on the climate note saying that India is not the most polluting country. He highlighted that India has committed to carbon emission reduction in the COP21 summit and that gas will play a key role in India to combat climate change. On augmenting gas distribution, GAIL has approximately

15,000km pipeline laid out for gas transport and plans to build another 15,000km gas pipeline.

He also stressed on the need for developing India specific models like Bio CNG, waste to gas, Syn gas from coal,etc. are the other areas to be looked for innovative economic solutions. He also mentioned that there will be enough market to absorb new volumes of gas in India in form of new anchor customers like new 100 smart cities. Further the urban areas are fast expanding and developing a market for gas, replacing LPG and will help enable channel the LPG in rural areas where women use animal waste and firewood for cooking, which is a big health hazard.

On gas economics, he commented that government would be willing to consider exempting LNG from import duty like crude oil, given that gas is a clean fuel and will help reduce emissions. He addressed to all the participants in the workshop to make an actionable plan and stressed on implementation and hitting the market. He also advised the group that a successful implementation strategy is one where all parties are aligned and onboard, hence it is important to convince all stakeholders across the gas value chain. Earlier the Deputy High Commissioner of United Kingdom, Mr. Dominic McAllister complimented Government of India on the amazing economic pace and significant policy and regulatory reforms.