



APM gas price fixed at \$8.27/mBtu for May

Our Bureau

New Delhi

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has revised the price of gas produced from the legacy fields of ONGC and Oil India Ltd by more than 4 per cent month-on-month to \$8.27 per million British Thermal Units (mBtu) for May 2023.

However, the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) said that the price from the nomination fields of both the oil PSUs will be subject to a ceiling of \$6.50 per mBtu.

Under the new pricing formula, the prices for natural gas will be revised monthly,

from the 26th of the previous month to the 25th of the current month.

Following the Cabinet's approval of the Kirit Parikh committee recommendations last month, the government revised the price of natural gas under the administered price mechanism (APM) at \$7.92 per mBtu for April.

REVISED PRICES

The prices were revised for two time periods — from April 1 to April 7, and another from April 8 to April 30. For the April 1-7 period, the PPAC said the price of gas on a GCV basis will be \$9.16 per mBtu.

Legacy fields account for 70 per cent of the gas produced in the country. Previously, the

price of gas from legacy fields and from difficult fields, or Deepwater, Ultra-Deepwater, and High Pressure-High Temperature (HPHT) fields were revised bi-annually, with effect from April 1 and October 1.

The Ministry said the new guidelines are intended to ensure a stable pricing regime for domestic gas consumers, while at the same time, providing adequate protection to producers from adverse market fluctuation with incentives for enhancing production.

The reforms will lead to a significant decrease in prices of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)

for transport. The reduced prices shall also lower the fertiliser subsidy burden and help the domestic power sector.

COMMERCIAL LPG

In a separate development, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) revised the price of commercial LPG on May 1. The rates have been slashed by ₹171.5 per 19 kg in line with a softening in the international prices of natural gas.

A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder now costs ₹1,856.50 in Delhi. This is the second straight cut in rates, when the rates were slashed by ₹91.50 per 19-kg cylinder on April 1. On March 1, prices were raised by ₹350.50.

Gas prices up for industry, lower for hotels, unchanged for homes

Staff Writer

feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

The price of domestically produced natural gas has been set at \$8.27 per metric million British thermal units (mmBtu) for May, up from \$7.92 in April, the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell said.

Domestic natural gas is used for piped home supplies, CNG for vehicles and for industries such as power and steel.

Its price is linked with that of international crude oil following a new domestic gas pricing formula introduced last month, and the two prices rose in tandem. India imports about half the cooking gas it uses.

"The price of domestic natural gas for the period of 1st May 2023 to 31st May 2023 is notified as \$8.27 per MMBTU on gross calorific value (GCV) basis," said a notification on 30 April.

However, the revision is unlikely to impact the prices of piped natural gas (PNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) as these are capped at \$6.5 per



The price of domestic cooking gas cylinders has been kept unchanged for the month. MINT

MMBTU.

"For the gas produced by ONGC/OIL from their nomination fields, the APM shall be subject to a ceiling of \$6.5/MMBTU in GCV basis for the same period," it said.

The introduction of the new pricing formula is aimed at expanding the consumption of natural gas and achieving the government's target to increase the share of natural gas in the primary energy mix in India from the current 6.5% to 15% by 2030.

Meanwhile, oil marketing

companies lowered the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by up to ₹171.50 across metro cities.

This was linked to a global decline in the price of LPG.

However, the price of 14.2 kg domestic cooking gas cylinders has been kept unchanged for the month.

The last revision of LPG in took place in March when prices were raised by ₹50 per cylinder. In the national capital, commercial LPG cylinders would be sold at ₹1,856.50, lower by ₹171.50 from ₹2,028 last month. In Kolkata and Mumbai too prices came down by ₹171.50 to ₹1,960.50 and ₹1,808.50 respectively, according to data from oil marketing companies.

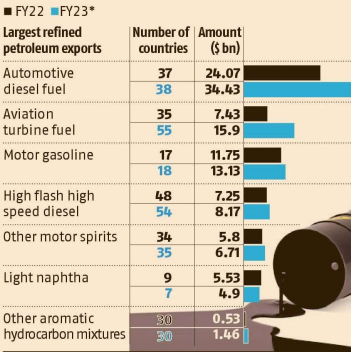
In Chennai, a commercial LPG cylinder costs ₹2,021.50, lower by ₹171 from last month.

This is the second straight reduction after prices were cut by ₹91.50 in April.

The consecutive reduction in prices comes as a relief for hotels and restaurants after the state-owned oil marketing companies on 1 March raised the price of commercial LPG cylinders by ₹350.50 per unit.

FY23 oil export basket was most diversified ever

CATEGORY-WISE EXPORTS



SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 1 May

Even as India's refined petroleum exports saw an intense growth in FY23, the export basket became the most diversified till now in terms of market reach.

Official data shows disparate geographies with relatively small amounts of historical trade, such as Israel, Brazil, and South Africa, broke into the top 10 list of destinations for Indian refined petroleum products in the first 11 months of FY23.

The shift in India's oil exports was due to new markets being tapped through a bilateral push, and represents India's oil trade becoming more in tune with global flows, multiple officials told *Business Standard*.

"The oil export business is highly dynamic, price sensitive, and seasonal. It is driven by changes in shipping and logistics prices," a senior official said.

"Historically, the government has never been involved with promoting petroleum exports. But over the past year, there have been several instances when intervention was required to provide a bilateral push as petroleum was being shipped in large quantities to many new markets," the official said.

He said the move was only to help clear exports from state-run oil companies, such as Indian Oil Corporation.

Exports trump imports

The country's overall import of crude oil rose 22 per cent to \$150.1 billion in the April-February period of FY23, driven by Indian refiners getting access to much larger volumes of Russian crude oil over the past year at highly discounted prices.

Officials said overall exports of refined petroleum grew at a faster clip despite rising domestic consumption. Export of all categories of petroleum products rose by 32.5 per cent in the first 11-months of FY23, climbing to \$88.28 billion, from \$69.5 billion in FY22.

For long India's highest earning export sector, petroleum products in FY23 dominated an even higher share of overall exports. Its share in total export receipts shot up to 21.5 per cent in the latest year, up from 15.8 percent in FY22. Meanwhile, the second largest single category of exports — diamonds — made for 5.1 per cent of receipts in FY23, reducing from 6.01 per cent in the previous year. Officials said the current trend was expected to continue for now as Russian oil continues to reach India.

Product markets diversifying

Most product categories under refined petroleum saw a marked increase in the number of nations exported to. Automotive diesel, the largest single component within refined petrochemicals export list, saw the highest shipments to Israel, Egypt, South Africa, and Jordan all entered the top 10 destinations for Indian diesel for the first time.

Export of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) saw exports widening to 55 nations in FY23, from just 35 in FY22. Indian oil products significantly started entering new and emerging oil transit hubs. The small West African nation of Togo, which is increasingly becoming a key storage and transit hub to clear surplus East of Suez volumes, was the fourth largest receiver of ATF from India.

Even specialised products, such as various types of motor spirits, were exported for the first time to developing or underdeveloped economies, such as Tanzania, Guatemala, and Mozambique, for the first time, officials said.

TOP 10 EXPORT DESTINATIONS



*Apr-Feb period
Note: Last year's position mentioned in parenthesis
Source: Commerce Department

TRACKING THE ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Oil imports from Russia make a new record

S DINAKAR

1 May

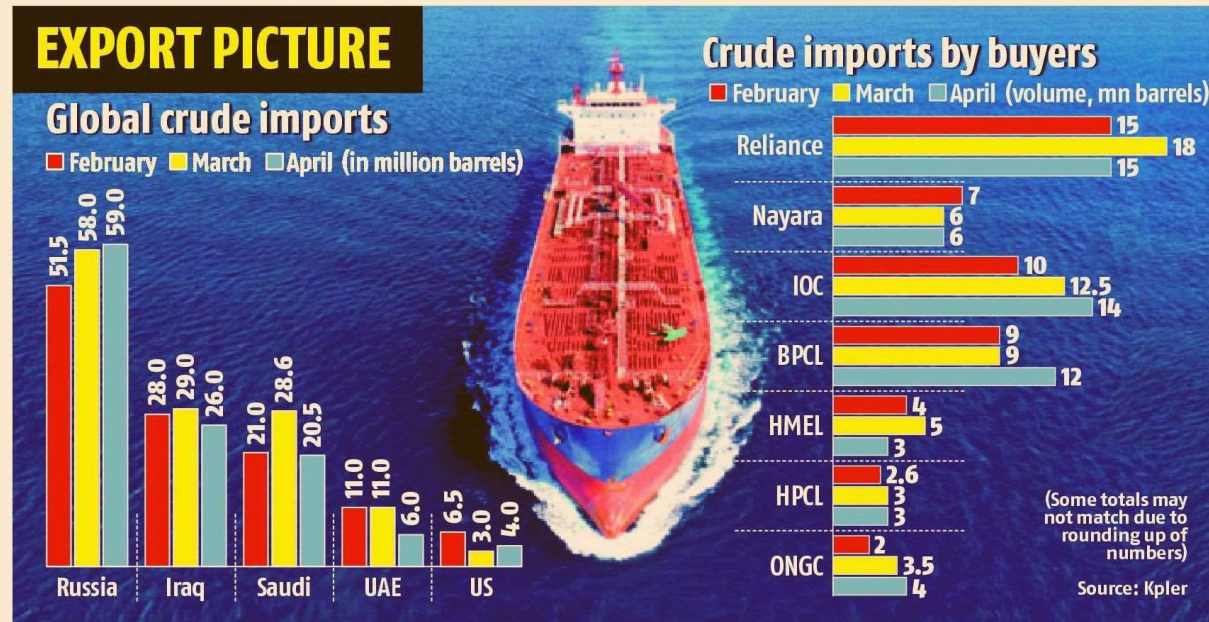
Indian imports of discounted crude oil from the Russian Federation hit an all-time high in April, even as the US progressively tightened the screws on exports of Russian crude, according to data analytics firms.

India imported about 59 million barrels of crude oil from Russia in April this year, against 58 million barrels in March and 12 million barrels a year ago, according to the data from commodity market intelligence firm Kpler. Purchases averaged around 2 million barrels a day, predominantly of Russian Urals — a medium, sour grade similar to Gulf crude.

Russia accounted for 42 per cent of India's overall crude imports, followed by Iraq at 18 per cent and Saudi Arabia at 15 per cent, according to calculations based on Kpler's ship-tracking data. Since February, Russian supplies have exceeded the combined sum of Saudi and Iraqi shipments.

US supplies were one the biggest casualties of Russian inroads into India's crude oil market. It was just 3 per cent in April at 4 million barrels, against a 12 per cent share in February 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine.

That also explains Washington's resistance to Russian oil purchases. Russian oil is supplied at a discount



of \$8-\$13 per barrel to Brent on delivered terms to India. That makes Russian grades cheaper than both US and other Middle East crude. Given New Delhi's directive to state oil companies to keep pump prices of diesel and petrol flat, discounted Russian oil helps reduce losses at IOC, BPCL, and HPCL, an industry official said.

India's oil imports from Russia have only increased with every new phase of sanctions, reflecting the central government's view that it is best to capitalise on growing tensions between the US and Russia, rather

than take sides in the conflict.

Reliance Industries was the biggest buyer of Russian grades in April, accounting for a 26 per cent share, followed closely by IOC at 24 per cent, and BPCL at 20 per cent. The share of India's state-run refiners together was 63 per cent in April, a record in volume terms, compared to 59 per cent in February.

Indian refiners have been emboldened by New Delhi's stance of supporting them in their efforts to buy discounted oil, industry officials said. In fact, India's purchases inten-

sified after a price cap on Russian crude was announced in December. There have been logistical and payment issues, with banks demanding details of Russian oil trades as a condition to releasing payments. In cases where grades like ESPO and Sokol exceeded the price cap, Indian refiners have opted to pay in dirhams.

Urals accounted for 62 per cent of India's purchases. It's India's most preferred crude for two reasons, a state-oil refiner said. First, it typically trades below a G-7 grouping-mandated price cap, which exempts pur-

chasers from Western sanctions. Second, it is similar to Arab medium grades, making it easier to process at state refineries, which were designed for Gulf crude.

The US-led G7 grouping imposed a \$60 per barrel cap on exports of Russian oil. Western insurers and transporters will not be able to provide financial and logistics services for trades above the price cap.

But the US and the EU have intensified policing, and the latest Opec+ output cuts have sent Brent grades higher. This poses two problems for India. If Urals trades consistently over the price cap, there will be serious payment issues for Russian oil. The UAE has also told New Delhi that payments in dirhams into Russian accounts in Dubai may not be possible in all cases, after Washington leaned on the Emirates.

China sourced 42 million barrels of crude last April, or, 1.4 million barrels a day of seaborne crude from Russia, Kpler's data shows. But China buys more of the light, sweet ESPO varieties, which are sold over the west-mandated price cap, compared to cheaper Urals oil.

However, China's overall imports of Russian crude exceeded India's by around 16 per cent in March, according to the Chinese customs data, because a substantial volume of Chinese purchases of Russian oil is also shipped via pipelines.

Oil drops as economic growth concerns offset Opec+ cuts

Oil fell on Monday as concern over the economic impact of the US Federal Reserve potentially raising interest rates and weaker Chinese manufacturing data outweighed support from Opec+ supply cuts taking effect this month.

The Fed, which meets on May 2-3, is expected to increase interest rates by another 25 basis points. The US dollar rose against a basket of currencies on Monday, making oil more expensive for other currency holders. Brent crude fell 97 cents, or 1.2 per cent, to \$79.36 a barrel by 1712 hrs (India time), while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude slid \$1.44, or 1.9 per cent, to trade at \$75.34.

“The failure to reach more solid ground

above \$80.50 in Brent points to continued selling interest amid the well known growth/ demand concerns,” said Ole Hansen, head of commodity Strategy at Saxo Bank.

Banking fears have weighed on oil in recent weeks and in what is the third major US institution to fail in two months, United States regulators said on Monday First Republic Bank has been seized and a deal agreed to sell the bank to JPMorgan.

“Investors are afraid that if the Fed continues to raise interest rates as expected, what will happen to the US financial system’s other problem children?,” said Naeem Aslam of Zaye Capital Markets, who added a hike of at least 25 basis points this week was still expected.

REUTERS

Fuel sales rise in April as agri demand picks up

Demand for diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country soared 6.7 per cent to 7.15 million tonnes in April

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: India's fuel sales rose in April as diesel demand grew on the back of a pick up in harvesting of Rabi crops and expansion of economic activity, preliminary industry data showed on Monday.

Demand for diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country accounting for about two-fifths of the demand, soared 6.7 per cent to 7.15 million tonnes in April compared to a year ago period.

Month-on-month sales rose 4.8 per cent when compared with 6.83 million tonnes of diesel consumed in March which witnessed a seasonal slowdown.

Petrol sales rose about 2.5 per cent to 2.64 million tonnes during April when compared with the same period of the last year. Sales, however, fell marginally by 0.5 per cent month-on-month, the data showed.

Petrol and diesel sales have been on the rise from the second half of March on the back of a pick up in industrial and agriculture activity.

In the first half of March, petrol sales had fallen 1.4 per cent and diesel by 10.2 per cent



Petrol sales rose about 2.5% to 2.64 million tonnes during April when compared with the same period of the last year. Sales, however, fell marginally by 0.5% month-on-month, the data showed

year-on-year.

Consumption of petrol in April was 23.5 per cent more than COVID-marred April 2021 and more than double in the same period of 2020. Diesel consumption was up 21 per cent over April 2021.

With the continued opening of the aviation sector, India's overall passenger traffic at airports inched closer to

pre-COVID levels.

Reflecting the trend, jet fuel (ATF) demand jumped 15.4 per cent to 595,600 tonnes during April when compared to the same period last year. It was 53.3 per cent higher than April 2021 but 4 per cent lower than pre-Covid April 2019. Month-on-month sales fell 3.1 per cent when compared with 614,700 tonnes in March 2023.

Rabi crops, mostly wheat, barley, mustard, sesame and peas, are sown between the months of October and December, and harvested from April to June. Wheat harvesting leads to a rise in diesel demand as harvesters and tractors run on that fuel.

India is enjoying steady growth, with support from the services sector as well as the industrial side of the economy.

The country's oil demand was supported by strong industrial activity, industry officials said.

In terms of products, diesel was the main driver of oil demand as there was a pick up in the agriculture sector, as well as requirements for power generation and industry. Use of the fuel in irrigation pumps and trucking supported diesel, they said.

Cooking gas LPG sales fell 2.7 per cent year-on-year to 2.19 million tonnes in April. LPG consumption was 4 per cent higher than in April 2021 and 16 per cent more than pre-Covid April 2019. Month-on-month, the demand dropped 8.1 per cent when compared to 2.38 million tonnes of LPG consumption during March, the data showed.

PROPOSAL TO RAISE STAKE IN IOC, BPCL AND HPCL

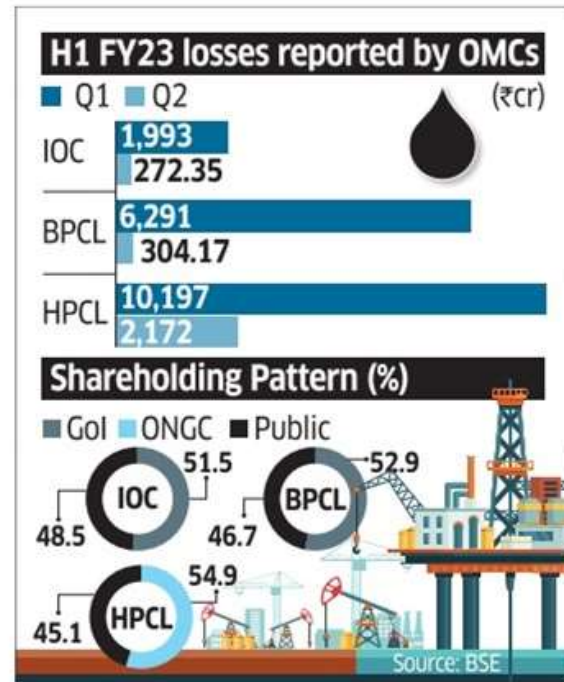
Govt may Mull Equity Infusion After 3 OMCs List Capex Plans

Capital support of ₹30kcr set aside in budget unlikely to be provided as subsidy; cos fear move could impact their share prices, mkt valuation

Kalpana.Pathak@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The government will weigh an equity infusion and a possible stake increase in the three oil marketing companies (OMCs) — Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) after they submit their capital investment plans, said two senior government officials.

“The ₹30,000 crore that was set aside as capital support for the OMCs in this budget would go to them in the form of equity infusion. But this will be after they present the finance ministry with a set of capital investment projects. Primarily, the projects will be related to emission reduction, refinery upgrada-



tion etc,” said a government official.

The modalities of the plan are in the works and the government will aim to complete the process this fiscal.

The instruments through which this equity infusion could take place have not been finalised.

State-run Oil Refiners Suggest Alternatives ►► 6

State-run Oil Refiners Suggest Alternatives

►► From Page 1

The official said ₹30,000 crore capital support will not be given to OMCs as part of subsidy for selling petrol and diesel below cost.

"Right now the OMCs need financial infusion. But the government is reluctant to give them subsidies," the official said.

The OMCs, on their part, are concerned that the equity infusion proposal could impact their share prices, market valuation and market perception.

"We are aware of the government's plan to increase equity in our company but we have suggested alternatives," said a senior official from an oil marketing company on the condition of anonymity.

He added that the OMCs have asked the government to either give them a financial grant or a loan to meet their capital expenditure requirements or disburse the ₹30,000 crore in the ratio of capital expenditure they would plan for FY24.

IN NEED OF FINANCIAL HELP

"We are not in a very good financial situation right now. We were expecting some financial help from the government. But so far nothing has come," he said.

The OMCs did not respond to an email query sent on April 24.

IOC, BPCL and HPCL — which meet over 90% of India's petroleum fuels demand — booked losses of ₹27,276 crore in the first half of the last financial year on account of selling fuel and domestic cooking gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) below cost over the last year. While domestic LPG prices are controlled by the government, petrol and diesel prices are officially deregulated.

The government holds 51.50% stake in IOC, the largest refiner and marketer; the rest is held by the public. In BPCL, it holds 52.98% stake with 46.71% held by the public. In HPCL, state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) holds 54.90% stake and the rest is owned by the public.

In October 2022, the government had approved a one-time grant of ₹22,000 crore to the OMCs to cushion these losses. In January this year, these companies had demanded ₹50,000 crore cash compensation from the government to meet capex requirements for the financial year 2023-24.

According to an April 12 note by Fitch Group's India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), the total debt of Indian state-run OMCs during the

first three quarters of FY23 increased 40% from their FY22 levels, mainly on account of an increase in the working capital debt to finance the losses incurred on the retail sale of petrol and diesel.

"For FY24, while Ind-Ra does not expect loss funding to create borrowing pressure, refining companies are undertaking capacity expansions which could increase debt. Additionally, changes to crude oil procurements could impact working capital requirements in case credit periods are reduced. Higher-than-expected dividend outflows could increase leverage ratios," said the report.

FUEL RETAILING

Fuel retailing has, however, currently turned profitable for the OMCs as domestic fuel prices remain unchanged even as international rates have softened.

Till last May, the government was planning to sell its entire 52.98% stake in BPCL. But the plan was scrapped after a muted response from the suitors in the wake of Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war.

On Friday, BPCL shares closed at ₹357.40, IOC ended at ₹81.37 and HPCL at ₹251.20 on the BSE. The markets were shut on Monday.

RIL-BP Seeks Bids for 6mmscmd of KG Gas

Electronic auction to be held on May 19 from the MJ field, supply to begin from June 1

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The consortium of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and BP has sought bids for 6 million metric standard cubic metres a day (mmscmd) of natural gas from its KG D6 block off the eastern coast, according to the tender document.

The electronic auction will be held on May 19 for the gas from the MJ field, which will begin supplying from June 1. Bidders are expected to quote a variable above the JKM price, the spot market

benchmark for liquefied natural gas (LNG) delivered to Japan and South Korea. The variable can be a positive or negative number. The JKM price is around \$11.55 per mmbtu at present.



A minimum volume of 10,000 standard cubic metres per day can be bid while the maximum bid volume would depend on the bidders' net worth and past gas consumption. For bids up to 1 mmscmd of gas, bidders don't need to meet any minimum net worth or past gas consumption criteria.

Bidders can seek volume for a tenure of three, four or five years.

The new supply from RIL-BP fields will add to the domestic production, helping cut imports that comprise about 44% of the country's total gas consumption.

In 2022-23, India produced about 92 mmscmd of gas and consumed about 165 mmscmd.

High import dependence makes India vulnerable to global price volatility. In 2022-23, international LNG prices rose to record highs, with JKM touching \$69 per mmbtu in August.

Diesel Sales Increase 6.7% in April, Petrol Logs 2.5% Rise

Increased economic activity, harvesting season requirements boost demand

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The demand for diesel increased 6.7% year-on-year in April, aided by the harvesting season and overall economic expansion. Diesel sales fared much better than petrol, which saw a 2.5% year-on-year increase in April, according to provisional sales figures of state-run oil marketing companies.

About 93% of diesel consumed in the country is sold through petrol pumps and the balance 7% is directly sold by oil companies to bulk customers like railways, shippers, miners and transport companies.

Increased vehicle sales and demand for consumer goods boost sales of diesel, which is the primary fuel for long-haul trucks needed to transport raw materials to factories and transfer finished products to warehouses and retail stores.

Diesel, which comprises about 40% of India's oil demand, has fully recovered from the Covid-19-induced disruption. Its sales in April were 9.1% higher than in the corresponding month of 2019. Petrol,



which recovered faster from the lows of the pandemic, sold 18.5% more in April than in the corresponding month in 2019.

Jet fuel sales, however, were still 4% below the level in April 2019, showing the aviation sector still needs some time to fully recover. They were, however, 15.4% higher than a year ago. LPG, mainly used for cooking in the country, sold 2.7% less than a year ago and 16% higher than in April 2019.

'Natgas Price to Remain Steady'

New Delhi: Domestic natural gas price will remain steady at \$6.5 per mmbtu for May, according to an oil ministry notification. The price is revised every month after last month's Cabinet decision linked the gas price to India's crude oil basket price of the previous month. The revised rate, calculated as 10% of the crude price, is \$8.27 per mmbtu for May. But since a cap of \$6.5 per mmbtu applies to domestic gas, the effective price would remain as it was in April. The domestic gas price also has a floor of \$4 per mmbtu.

COMMERCIAL LPG PRICE CUT

State-run oil companies cut the rates of 19-kg commercial LPG refill by ₹171.50 on Monday. The new rate in Delhi is ₹2,028 per cylinder.

Centre Slashes Windfall Tax to ₹4,100 per Tonne

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India Monday slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to ₹4,100 per tonne from ₹6,400 per tonne.

The export duty exemption for petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel will continue. The duty will be effective May 2, according to a notification issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

In the previous revision, the government had reimposed the windfall profit tax on domestically produced oil from zero to ₹6,400 per tonne and scrapped export duty on diesel.

The latest revision comes on the back of softening in oil prices.

The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on the average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

India first imposed the windfall profit tax on July 1 last year, then joining a growing number of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies.



HPCL, BPCL Get New HR Directors

New Delhi: State-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) on Monday got new directors for human resources, the two companies said. While K S Shetty took over as Director (Human Resources) of HPCL, Raj Kumar Dubey took over as Director (HR) at BPCL.

“Prior to joining as Director (Human Resources) of HPCL, Shetty was Executive Director (Human Resources) with additional charge of Executive Director (Employee Relations) in HPCL,” the company said in a statement.

Shetty is a Gold Medalist in Human Resource Management from Andhra University and also a distinguished alumnus of the Swedish Institute, Stockholm from where he completed his Diploma in Sustainable Development in 2012. —PTI

PSU OIL FIRMS SLASH PRICES OF COMMERCIAL LPG, AVIATION FUEL

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

Business establishments like hotels, restaurants and airliners have a reason to cheer as oil marketing companies (OMCs) have cut the cooking gas (LPG) price by a steep ₹171.5 per cylinder and rates of jet fuel (ATF) were also reduced by 2.45 per cent as well. The move of the OMCs come at a time when the softening of international oil prices has been realised, OMCs said on Monday.

Issuing the notification, state-owned fuel retailers said that price of commercial LPG was cut by ₹171.5 per cylinder and jet fuel or aviation turbine fuel (ATF) by 2.45 per cent on softening international oil prices. This is the second straight monthly reduction in commercial LPG prices. Now, a 19-kg commercial LPG will cost ₹1,856.5 in the national capital, down from ₹2,028.

The prices were last changed on May 2022 when the government cut the excise duty to give relief to consumers from a spike in retail rates that followed a surge in international oil prices.

The rates were cut by ₹91.5 per 19-kg cylinder on April 1. The two reductions, however, haven't neutralised the ₹350.50 per cylinder hike in prices effected from March 1.

Domestic cooking gas LPG prices remained unchanged at ₹1,103 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, while it was last changed on March 1, when they were hiked by ₹50 per cylinder.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revised cooking gas prices on the 1st of every month based on average international prices in the previous month. Separately, ATF price was cut by 2.45 per cent in line with international trends.

RIL seeks \$11 per unit for KG-D6 gas

New Delhi, May 1: Reliance Industries and its partner BP of the UK have offered for auction 6 million standard cubic metres per day of more gas from their KG-D6 block as the partners bring the deepest field in the block to production.

The two partners will on May 19 e-auction 6 mmscmd of gas, whose supplies will start from June 1, according to a tender document.

Bidders have been asked to quote a variable 'v' over and above the JKM price, the spot market benchmark for liquefied natural gas (LNG) delivered to Japan and South Korea.

The JKM price is around \$11.5 per million British thermal units at present. And the start price of the auction translates into a gas price of \$11.44 per mmBtu and at the ceiling, it would result in a price of \$12.25.



Bidders can seek volume for a tenure of 3 to 5 years.

Reliance-bp had last month sold 6 mmscmd of gas to buyers like state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Adani-Total Gas Ltd and Shell.

Gas produced from wells drilled below the seabed is used to produce electricity, make fertiliser or turned into CNG for powering automobiles or piped to household kitchens for cooking as well as in industries. In May last year, RIL-BP had auctioned 5.5 mmscmd of incremental gas from the newer discoveries in the KG-D6 block, benchmarking it to the same JKM gas marker.

— PTI



जानें-समझें

रूस से आयात, यूरोप को निर्यात

किस मोड़ पर तेल कूटनीति

दीपक रस्तोगी

रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध से पहले तक भारत के आयात में रूसी तेल की हिस्सेदारी सिर्फ एक फीसद थी। एक साल के बाद यह हिस्सेदारी बढ़ कर 35 फीसद पर पहुँच गई है। इस समय भारत रूस से रोजाना 3,60,000 बैरल तेल की योजना खरीद कर रहा है। रूस के अलावा भारत सऊदी अरब और इराक से सबसे ज्यादा कच्चा तेल खरीद रहा है। दूसरी ओर, अप्रैल 2022 से लेकर जनवरी 2023 के बीच भारत से यूरोपीय देशों को निर्यात किए जाने वाले परिशोधित पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का आंकड़ा बढ़ कर 1.16 करोड़ टन तक पहुँच गया है। यूरोपीय देशों को पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के निर्यात में भारत की हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 22 फीसद हो गई है। भारत से जिन 20 क्षेत्रों को परिशोधित पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों का निर्यात किया जाता है, उसमें यूरोपियन संघ शीर्ष पर पहुँच गया है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर तेल कूटनीति में भारत ने दो मोर्चे एक साथ साधे हैं।

यूरोपीय संघ से कारोबार

यूक्रेन पर हमले की प्रतिक्रिया में यूरोपियन संघ ने पिछले साल दिसंबर में रूसी कच्चे तेल पर लगभग प्रतिबंध लगा दिया था। दो महीने बाद उसके परिशोधित तेल उत्पादों की खरीद पर भी प्रतिबंध लगा दिए गए। प्रतिबंध से पहले तक यूरोप अपनी जरूरत का 30 फीसद तेल रूस से खरीदता था। रूसी तेल के आयात पर प्रतिबंध से यूरोपीय संघ समेत पूरे यूरोप में आपूर्ति की किल्लत हो गई। यूरोप के लिए यह ज्यादा चिंता की बात थी, क्योंकि वह पहले से ही ऊँची महंगी दरों से जूझ रहा था। अब स्थिति यह है कि यूरोपीय बाजारों में रूस का तेल भारत के जरिए पहुँच रहा है। ऐसे में भारत की परिशोधन कंपनियों ने इसे मौके के तौर पर देखा। भारत से यूरोपीय संघ के देशों में निर्यात लगातार पाँच महीने तक बढ़ता रहा। इस महीने यह 19 लाख टन तक पहुँच गया। अप्रैल 2022 से लेकर जनवरी 2023 भारत से यूरोप को निर्यात किया जाने वाला परिशोधित तेल निर्यात बढ़ कर 1.16 करोड़ टन तक पहुँच हो गया।

रूस से खरीद

अमेरिका और यूरोप की ओर से प्रतिबंध लगाए जाने के बावजूद रूस से बढ़ी मात्रा में रियायती दाम पर भारत कच्चा तेल

क्या कहते हैं जानकार



(फाइल फोटो)



यूरोप के सामने अभी सबसे बड़ा संकट ऊर्जा की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी है। भले ही रूसी तेल पर प्रतिबंध लगा हो, लेकिन यूरोप को रूसी ऊर्जा स्रोत पर निर्भर रहना होगा। तेल अब सीधे रूस से नहीं बल्कि भारत के जरिए पहुँच रहा है। ऊर्जा सुरक्षा ऐसा विषय है जिस पर सीधे कोई लाइन नहीं ली जा सकती।

- अजय मल्होत्रा, रूस में भारत के पूर्व राजदूत

युद्ध ने ऐसी स्थिति बनाई है कि भारत जिस उत्पाद (पेट्रोलियम पदार्थ) का आयातक रहा है, अब उसका निर्यातक बनता जा रहा है। भारत तेजी से पेट्रोल के मूल्य आधारित उत्पाद की आपूर्ति का बड़ा हब बनता जा रहा है। इस स्थिति का आगे फायदा तभी मिलेगा, जब भारत अपनी परिशोधन क्षमता को और विस्तार दे।

- प्रीति शरण, पूर्व राजनयिक

खरीद रहा है। रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध से पहले तक भारत के आयात बास्केट में रूसी तेल की हिस्सेदारी एक फीसद थी। एक साल में यह हिस्सेदारी बढ़ कर 35 फीसद पर पहुँच गई। इस साल मार्च में रूसी उप प्रधानमंत्री अलेक्जेंडर नोवाक ने आंकड़ें जारी किए थे कि उनके देश ने एक साल में भारत को अपनी तेल विक्री 22 फीसद बढ़ाई है। भारत चीन और अमेरिका के बाद तेल का तीसरा बड़ा खरीदार है। रूस से बढ़ी आपूर्ति का फायदा भारतीय तेल परिशोधन कंपनियाँ उठा रही हैं। भारत दुनिया के बड़े तेल परिशोधन क्षमता वाले देशों में शामिल हो गया है। भारतीय कंपनियों की आपूर्ति में बढ़ोतरी से यूरोपीय बाजार में तेल का संकट बेकाबू नहीं हुआ, जिसकी काफी आशंका जताई जा रही थी। भारत की परिशोधन क्षमता इसकी घरेलू मांग से काफी ज्यादा है। यही कारण है अतिरिक्त आपूर्ति से यूरोपीय बाजार की ओर मुड़ गई है।

ऊर्जा संकट की दस्तक

दिलचस्प तथ्य यह है कि यूरोपीय देशों ने रूस से सस्ते में कच्चा तेल खरीदने के भारत के कदम पर असंतोष प्रकट किया था। यूरोपीय देशों ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा की बैठक के दौरान भी भारतीय विदेश मंत्री समेत तमाम प्रतिनिधियों से आपत्ति जताई थी। दिसंबर 2022 में भारत आई जर्मनी की विदेश मंत्री एनेलिना बेरबाक ने जब रूस से तेल खरीदने पर भारत से शिकायत की थी

वोस्रो खाते

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने जुलाई 2022 में ही इसकी घोषणा की थी और आरबीआइ ने रूसी बैंकों को भारत में वोस्रो खाते खोलने की अनुमति भी दे दी थी। वोस्रो खाते खोलने से भारत के साथ कारोबार करने वाले देशों को आयात या निर्यात करने पर डालर की जगह रूपए में भुगतान करने की सुविधा मिलती है। भारत में वोस्रो खाते खुल तो गए, लेकिन अब तक रूस के साथ रूपए में ज्यादा लेन-देन नहीं हो पा रहा। भारत का आयात ज्यादा होने के कारण रूस में भारतीय रुपया जमा होता जा रहा है। फिलहाल, दोनों देश इसका समाधान खोजने में जुटे हैं।

तो भारतीय विदेश मंत्री एस जयशंकर ने कहा था कि पिछले नौ महीने में यूरोपियन यूनियन ने जितना तेल खरीदा है, भारत ने उसका छठा हिस्सा ही खरीदा है और रूस से खरीद बंद नहीं होगी। अब आज की स्थिति यह है कि यूरोपीय देशों को भारत से तेल मंगाने में कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। दरअसल, ऊर्जा संकट के आसन्न खतरों में यूरोपीय देशों के लिए भारत देवदूत सरीखा बनकर उभरा है। भारत एक भरोसेमंद आपूर्तिकर्ता के तौर पर उभरा है। अब अमेरिका और कई पश्चिमी देशों के लिए यह राहत की बात है कि भारत की आपूर्ति जारी रहे।

व्यापार घाटे का पंच

भारत अपने रक्षा उपकरणों के लिए रूस पर ज्यादा निर्भर है। दोनों देशों में यह समझ बनी है कि भारत जितने पैसे का हथियार खरीदता है, उसी मात्रा में भारत अपनी चीजों को रूस निर्यात करता है। धन का कोई वास्तविक लेन-देन नहीं होता। रूस से कच्चा तेल खरीदने के बाद स्थिति बदल गई है। भारत रूस से कच्चे तेल के अलावा खाने का तेल और उर्वरक भी आयात कर रहा है। लेकिन रूस से निर्यात में कमी आ रही है। रूस से आयात करीब चार सौ फीसद बढ़ गया है और निर्यात करीब 14 फीसद कम हो गया। इसी दौरान भारत और रूस ने स्थानीय मुद्रा (रुपया और रूबल) में व्यापार करने का फैसला किया।



वाणिज्यिक गैस सिलेंडर के दाम घटे

राहत

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी की कीमत में सोमवार को 171.5 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर की भारी कटौती हुई, जबकि विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) 2.45 प्रतिशत सस्ता हुआ। वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमतों में यह लगातार दूसरी मासिक कटौती है। इससे पहले एक अप्रैल को दरों में 91.5 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर (19 किलोग्राम) की कटौती की गई थी। घरेलू रसोई गैस एलपीजी की कीमत

घरेलू प्राकृतिक गैस की कीमत में बढ़ोतरी हुई

मई के लिए घरेलू प्राकृतिक गैस की कीमत बढ़ाकर 8.27 डॉलर प्रति मिलियन ब्रिटिश थर्मल यूनिट पर निर्धारित की गई है। यह पिछले महीने पेश किए गए नए घरेलू गैस मूल्य निर्धारण फॉर्मूले के अनुरूप अप्रैल में 7.92 डॉलर थी। दरों में इजाफे के बावजूद नई मूल्य निर्धारण व्यवस्था के अनुसार गैस की अधिकतम कीमत उपभोक्ताओं से 6.50 डॉलर प्रति एमबीटीयू शुल्क लिया जाता रहेगा। इसका मतलब यह है कि सीएनजी और घरेलू उपयोग के लिए पाइप प्राकृतिक गैस के इस मूल्य संशोधन के परिणामस्वरूप कीमतों में बदलाव होने की संभावना नहीं है।

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में 1,103 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर (14.2 किलोग्राम) पर बरकरार रही। वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी का इस्तेमाल मुख्य रूप से होटल और रेस्टोरेंट जैसे व्यापारिक

प्रतिष्ठानों द्वारा किया जाता है। अब वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत अब दिल्ली में 2,028 रुपये से घटकर 1,856.5 रुपये रह गई है।

घरेलू प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम अधिसूचित

शुभायन चक्रवर्ती
नई दिल्ली, 1 मई

सरकार ने मई के लिए सोमवार को घरेलू प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम 7.92 डॉलर प्रति एमएमबीटीयू से बढ़ाकर 8.27 डॉलर प्रति एमएमबीटीयू किए हैं। इस घोषणा का असर प्राकृतिक गैस के घरेलू, वाणिज्यिक और औद्योगिक उपभोक्ताओं पर नहीं पड़ेगा। इसका कारण यह है कि इन उपभोक्ताओं के लिए 6.5 डॉलर प्रति एमएमबीटीयू की सीमा तय कर दी गई है। घरों में पाइप के जरिए मुहैया करवाई जाने वाली प्राकृतिक गैस (पीएनजी) और वाहनों के ईंधन कम्प्रेस्ड नैचुरल गैस (सीएनजी) के खुदरा दामों में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है।

गैस के नवीनतम दाम नए फॉर्मूले के आधार पर तय किए गए हैं। ये दाम भारत के कच्चे तेल के आयात के अंतरराष्ट्रीय मूल्य से 10 फीसदी स्तर से जुड़े होंगे।

अप्रैल की शुरुआत में सरकार ने गैस के दामों पर किरीट पारिख समिति की सिफारिशों के अनुरूप घरेलू प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम निर्धारित करने के तरीके में संशोधन किया था।

इसमें सरकार का महत्वपूर्ण फैसला अंतिम उपभोक्ता के लिए 6.5 डॉलर प्रति एमएमबीटीयू की सीमा तय करना था।

वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी सस्ती

सरकार संचालित कंपनियों के 19 किलो के कमर्शियल एलपीजी सिलिंडर का दाम घटाकर 171.50 रुपये तत्काल प्रभाव से कम कर दिया गया है। सोमवार से दिल्ली में कमर्शियल एलपीजी सिलिंडर का खुदरा दाम अब 1856.50 रुपये होगा। इसके दामों में बीते एक महीने के दौरान दो बार कटौती हुई। ओएमसी ने 1 अप्रैल को प्रति सिलिंडर 91.50 रुपये की कटौती की थी। हालांकि अभी भी फरवरी की तुलना में दाम ज्यादा है।



**रिलायंस-बीपी ने
केजी-डी6 से उत्पादित
अतिरिक्त गैस की बिक्री
के लिए बोलियां मांगी**

नई दिल्ली। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लि. और उसकी भागीदार ब्रिटेन की बीपी ने अपने केजी-डी6 ब्लॉक से 60 लाख घनमीटर प्रतिदिन और गैस की नीलामी की पेशकश की है। कंपनी के ब्लॉक में सबसे गहरे क्षेत्र से उत्पादन शुरू करने के बाद यह पेशकश की गई है। निविदा दस्तावेज के अनुसार दोनों भागीदार 19 मई को 60 लाख घनमीटर प्रतिदिन (यूनिट) गैस की ई-नीलामी करेंगे। रिलायंस बीपी ने पिछले महीने 60 लाख घनमीटर गैस की बिक्री सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की इंडियन ऑयन कॉरपोरेशन, अडाणी-टोटल गैस लि. तथा शेल जैसी कंपनियों को की थी।

भारत ने किया
तेल का गजब
खेल

रूस से खरीदा तेल यूरोपीय देशों को रिफाईंड करके बेच रहा भारत

एजेंसी ► नई दिल्ली

भारत ने गजब तेल का खेल किया है। जिन यूरोपीय देशों ने रूस से कच्चा तेल खरीदने पर भारत के प्रति नाराजगी जताई थी। अब भारत उन्हें ही रूस के कच्चे तेल को रिफाईंड करके बेच रहा है। दरअसल भारत के पास ऑइल रिफाइन करने की क्षमता अधिक है। एनालिटिक्स फर्म केप्लर की हालिया रिपोर्ट में यह बात सामने आई है कि भारत इस महीने रिफाईंड पेट्रोलियम का यूरोप का सबसे बड़ा आपूर्तिकर्ता बन गया है। यूक्रेन पर रूसी हमले के बाद यूरोपीय यूनियन ने दिसंबर 2022 में रूसी कच्चे तेल पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया था। रूस के रिफाईंड तेल उत्पादों पर भी प्रतिबंध लगाए थे।

यूरोप ने
दिसंबर 2022
में रूसी कच्चे
तेल पर बैन
लगा दिया था



प्रतिबंध से यूरोप में आई तेल की किल्लत

रूस से यूरोप अपने इस्तेमाल का 30 फीसदी तेल खरीदता था। लेकिन जंग शुरू होने के बाद प्रतिबंध लग जाने के कारण वे रूस से तेल नहीं खरीद पाए और उनके यहां तेल की किल्लत हो गई। यूरोपीय देशों की इसी किल्लत को भारत पूरा कर रहा है। भारत की तेल कंपनियां इस कमी को पूरा करने का बीड़ा उठा रही हैं। अप्रैल 2022 से जनवरी 2023 के बीच भारत ने यूरोप को 1.16 करोड़ टन रिफाईंड पेट्रोलियम का निर्यात किया।