

'DIDN'T YIELD TO PRESSURE ON FOSSIL FUELS'

New Delhi, Dec. 19: India did not accede to the pressure from developed countries on the issue of fossil fuels at the UN climate conference in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), environment minister Bhupender Yadav said on Tuesday. Responding to questions at a press conference here, he also said India is committed to meeting the energy needs of its people and will also have to rely on coal power until it achieves developed country status. Mr Yadav said the country cannot meet the energy needs of its people by just "importing oil and gas". "While we are increasing our renewable capacity, we will also have to rely on coal power until we achieve the objective of a developed India," he said. India relies on coal for about 70 per cent of its power generation and aims to add 17 gigawatts of coal-based power generation capacity in the next 16 months. Mr Yadav said India "strongly resisted" the rich nations' call for limitations on new and unabated coal power generation. "We said you cannot dictate or tie up any country." Around 40 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions stem from coal, with oil and gas accounting for the remaining percentage. Developing countries, including India, pushed rich nations to take the lead in climate action and "that's why the climate conference got extended", Mr Yadav said. — PTI



Centre cuts windfall profit tax on crude oil

FC CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, DEC. 19

The government has cut the windfall profit tax significantly on crude oil produced in the country and on exports of diesel as well.

The tax, levied in the form of special additional excise duty (SAED), on domestically produced crude oil has been reduced to ₹1,300 from ₹5,000 per tonne from December 19.

SAED on diesel exports has also been scaled down from ₹1 per litre to ₹0.5 per litre, the notification said.

The government has augmented the levy on On aviation turbine fuel or (ATF) exports. The tax, previously non-existent, has been set at Re 1 per

litre.

Contrarily, SAED on petrol will persist at a rate of zero, remaining unaffected by these alterations, it said.

The windfall tax generally revises fortnightly in line with the trends in international crude and product prices. Key players in fuel export in India include Reliance Industries, and Nayara Energy, backed by Rosneft.

Earlier on December 1 this year, the government announced a decrease in the windfall tax on crude petroleum from ₹6,300 per tonne to ₹5,000.

During the review on November 16, the government cut the windfall tax on crude petroleum by ₹3,500 from ₹9,800 per tonne to ₹6,300.

Softer global oil price cuts windfall tax collections

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India's windfall tax mop-up from crude oil and auto fuels has slipped due to a combination of lower energy prices and falling domestic production, official data showed.

Collections from the windfall tax, levied on domestic sale of crude oil to refineries and on export of petrol and diesel, fell 9% from a year earlier to ₹1.5 trillion in the April-October period.

This tax is levied as special additional excise duty and revised nearly twice a month.

During April-October, the highest rate of windfall tax on crude oil was ₹12,100 a tonne, levied in the fortnight starting 30 September.

This is a steep drop from ₹23,250 levied during 1-20 July, 2022, before it was lowered to ₹17,000 a tonne.

On Monday, the government kept windfall tax at a nominal ₹1,300 a tonne, showed a Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) order.

The decline in windfall tax collections follows a sharp decline in global prices of crude oil and fuels.

In the first seven months of

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Slips on

Oil price, crude output, excise duty receipts see moderation

	FY24 Apr-Oct	% change
Centre's excise duty collection in ₹ crore	150215	-9.3
Average crude oil price (Indian basket) in \$ per barrel	83.44	-18.2
Average international price of petrol in dollar per barrel	94.74	-19.3
Average international price of diesel in dollar per barrel	102.49	-27.9
Crude oil production in million tonnes	15.94	-3.0
Refinery output of petrol in million tonnes	25.7	5.4
Refinery output of diesel in million tonnes	66.62	1.8

Source: Controller General of Accounts, Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell

SARVESH KUMAR SHARMA/MINT

Windfall tax money declines in Apr-Oct

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the current fiscal, average price of the Indian crude oil basket stood at \$83.4 a barrel, 18% below close to \$102 a barrel a year earlier.

In the case of petrol and diesel, international prices have fallen annually by 19% and 28% respectively to \$94.74 and \$102.49 a barrel in the same period.

While excise duty is a tax on production, the windfall tax, seeks to mop up a part of the super profit margins that Indian crude oil producers and exporters of petrol, diesel and jet fuel make when their price realization, which is linked to global prices of these commodities rather than their cost of production, goes up.

Export of fuel from special economic zones are not covered under this levy. Crude oil producers charge global prices when they sell to domestic refiners.

Refiners also realize global

prices of auto fuels in domestic market and abroad.

That leads to a situation where extraordinary prices of crude oil and sensitive fuels fetch super profits to Indian energy companies that the windfall tax targets.

Domestic crude oil production in the first seven months of the current financial year also fell 3% to 15.94 million tonnes.

"Primarily on account of reduced crude oil production and the reduced rate of special additional excise duty, revenue collection from excise duty has seen a moderation this fiscal," explained R. Muralidharan, a practising lawyer and indirect tax expert.

While crude oil production attracts a nominal basic excise duty, a 20% cess and national calamity contingency duty in addition to the special additional excise duty, petrol and diesel attract basic excise duty, special additional excise duty and two categories of cess.

Domestic crude oil production in the first seven months of the fiscal year also fell 3% to 15.94 million tonnes

Parliament approves additional spending of ₹58,378 crore in this fiscal

An additional outgo of Rs 9,200 crore is towards spending by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

NEW DELHI: Parliament on Tuesday gave its approval for a net additional spending of Rs 58,378 crore in the current fiscal ending March 2024, with a large chunk allocated to MGNREGA and fertiliser subsidies.

The gross additional spending would be more than Rs 1.29 lakh crore, out of which Rs 70,968 crore would be matched by savings and receipts.

On Tuesday, Rajya Sabha returned the two appropriation bills to Lok Sabha after a brief discussion.

Most of the members who participated in the discussion were from the Treasury benches as a large number of Opposition members are suspended from the House. Opposition members who were present did not participate in the discussion.

Last week, Lok Sabha passed the supplementary demands for grants after a short discussion.

Replying to the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary on Tuesday highlighted the key aspects of the first batch of demands for grants.

According to the demands for grants, the net additional spending by the government would be Rs 58,378.21 crore in the current fiscal.

The additional expenditure



includes Rs 13,351 crore towards fertiliser subsidies and about Rs 7,000 crore towards spending by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

An additional outgo of Rs 9,200 crore is towards spending by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Rs 14,524 crore by the Ministry of Rural Development towards MGNREGA is included in the supplementary demands.

The total supplementary demands for spending by the Ministry of External Affairs is Rs 20,000 crore, which would be adjusted against the reduction of expenditure of over Rs 9,000 crore.

For the full 2023-24 financial year, the government has budgeted the fiscal deficit to be Rs 17.86 lakh crore or 5.9 per cent of the GDP.

The April-October fiscal deficit was 45.6 per cent of the full-year Budget Estimate of the last fiscal. PTI

MRPL firms up green aviation fuel plans

Aneesh Phadnis

Mumbai

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) is gearing up to produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in two years to support the government's one per cent blending target.

While Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to start the country's first commercial-scale SAF plant at Panipat by 2026, MRPL is setting up 20-kilolitre-per-day plant to demonstrate indigenously-developed technology.

The MRPL management is in the process of taking necessary board approvals for the

construction of the SAF plant, said Sanjay Varma, who holds additional charge of managing director, MRPL.

Subsequently, it will take about two-and-a-half years for setting up the plant at an estimated cost of around ₹450 crore, Varma added. MRPL has also undertaken a survey with subject matter experts to identify sources for the required quantities of feed for target SAF production including scale up at a later date.

Last month, the National Biofuels Coordination Committee, chaired by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced one per cent SAF blending target for international flights in 2027. This

will be enhanced to two per cent in 2028. IOC will use LanzaJet's alcohol-to-jet technology to produce SAF in a 50:50 joint venture. MRPL is relying on CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum's single-step process that converts used cooking oil or palm waste to produce SAF.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum has produced more than 14,000 litres of SAF on a pilot basis in Dehradun and the fuel has been approved for use in Indian Air Force aircraft with a 10 per cent blend since 2021.

The process for securing the ASTM International certification is underway. Once approved, the fuel can be used by airlines.

2030 तक प्राकृतिक गैसों की होगी दोगुनी हिस्सेदारी

सर्वेश कुमार

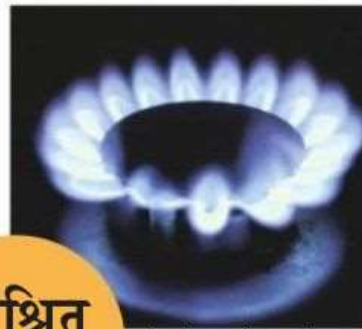


श में ऊर्जा की बढ़ती जरूरतों पूरा करने के लिए सरकार ने ऊर्जा मिश्रण में प्राकृतिक गैस में हिस्सेदारी को बढ़ाने का फैसला

लिया है। 2030 तक ऊर्जा मिश्रण में प्राकृतिक गैस की हिस्सेदारी को 6.7 फीसद से बढ़ाकर दोगुना से भी अधिक यानी 15 फीसद करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। इसके लिए राष्ट्रीय गैस ग्रिड के दायरे में 10,860 किलोमीटर के विस्तार पर काम चल रहा है।

शहरी गैस वितरण (सीजीडी) नेटवर्क विस्तार के लिए न्यूनतम कार्य योजना के तहत करीब 12.50 करोड़ पीएनजी कनेक्शन और साल के अंत तक 17,751 सीएनजी स्टेशनों की स्थापना के लिए कार्य प्रगति पर है। इससे मौजूदा क्षमता 4.77 करोड़ मीट्रिक टन से बढ़कर सालाना 6.67 हो जाएगी।

फिलहाल प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन में 20 फीसद की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है। 2020-21 में 28.7 अरब घन मीटर (बीसीएम) से बढ़कर 2022-23 में 34.45 बीसीएम हो गई है। घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार ने हाइड्रोकार्बन अन्वेषण और लाइसेंसिंग नीति को अधिसूचित किया है। फरवरी 2019 रियायती रायल्टी के प्रावधानों में भी ढील दी गई थी। इसके तहत श्रेणी-दो और तीन की कुछ नदी घाटियों में प्राकृतिक गैस के विपणन और मूल्य



मिश्रित ऊर्जा

निर्धारण की स्वतंत्रता से राजस्व में हिस्सेदारी में कमी आई है। राज्यसभा में एक सवाल के जवाब में पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस राज्यमंत्री ने सदन को यह जानकारी दी।

बहुआयामी रणनीति से मिलेगी ऊर्जा सुरक्षा

अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी (आइआइए) की ओर से प्रकाशित इंडिया एनर्जी आउटलुक 2021 के अनुसार भारत दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा ऊर्जा और कच्चे तेल का उपभोक्ता है। शहरीकरण, परिवहन की जरूरतें, बुनियादी ढांचा विकास, बढ़ती आय, जीवनयापन के लिए बेहतर मानक और ऊर्जा की खपत में बढ़ोतरी को देखते हुए सरकार ने ऊर्जा सुरक्षा में सुधार के लिए एक बहुआयामी रणनीति अपनाई है। इसका उद्देश्य तेल और गैसों के घरेलू उत्पादन में बढ़ोतरी के साथ ऊर्जा दक्षता और संरक्षण को बढ़ावा देना है। इसके लिए जैव ईंधन, इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों समेत दूसरे विकल्पों को बढ़ावा देना है।

