

RESPONSE TO USAID-ASAR STUDY

Access to LPG cylinders increased since 2014: Centre

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
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THE CENTRE on Friday said the ease of access to LPG cylinders has increased since 2014, with the number of LPG bottling plants and distributorships increasing from 187 and 13,896 to 208 and 25,398, respectively, as of July 1, 2023.

The government made the statement in response to a recent study on access to and use of LPG cylinders in Delhi and Jharkhand, carried out by USAID in collaboration with ASAR, an environmental and social impact start up. This was reported in The Indian Express on August 22.

The study — "Barriers to

Access, Adoption, and Sustained Use of Cleaner Fuels Among Low-Income Households: An Exploratory Study from Delhi and Jharkhand, India" — stated that while the rapid expansion in LPG access was commendable through outreach of Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), having an LPG connection did not ensure its sustained use by households. The study further found that for poorer households, the price of refilling an LPG cylinder was a major hurdle in its usage.

In response, the Centre said, "In April 2014, there were only 5.35 distributorships per lakh households. This number has risen to 8.47 distributorships per lakh households by July 1, 2023.

In an effort to reach every village across the country, several Gramin Vitak distributorships have been established. Of the total 25,398 distributorships as of July 1, 2023, approximately 46% are Gramin Vitak, and about 8% are Durgam Kshetriya Vitak. With the exception of Durgam Kshetriya Vitak, all other distributorships are required to provide home delivery of cylinders."

The Centre has further said that from FY 2019-20 to FY 2022-23, per capita consumption by PMUY beneficiaries has increased from 3.01 to 3.71 per annum (in terms of 14.2 kg domestic cylinder). "The increased adoption of LPG among PMUY customers resulted in a significant rise in overall domestic LPG

consumption from 14,411 TMT in FY 2013-14 to 25,381 TMT in FY 2022-23, indicating the positive impact of PMUY in improving cooking practices and reducing household air pollution," it said.

The Indian government has further said that to "ensure sustained LPG use and to make it affordable for all Ujjwala beneficiaries", the government has started to provide an additional subsidy of Rs 200 per cylinder from May 2022.

"For sustained LPG usage the government is continuously regulating LPG prices so that the poor households can be protected from fluctuations of international prices," said the government statement.

The government further

pointed out that the increase in international prices of LPG in 2020-21 to 2022-23, was not "fully passed on retail prices, due to which public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) suffered under recoveries of approximately Rs 28,000 crore on sale of domestic LPG".

To compensate for this, the government approved a one-time compensation of Rs 22,000 crore to OMCs in FY 2022-23.

In 2020-21, in order to support PMUY households during the pandemic, the government announced three free refills to each PMUY household under PMGK. "During the run of the scheme, total 14.17 crore refills were given free of cost to the PMUY beneficiaries," it said.

IndianOil sets sight on being '360° energy' co; to invest ₹4 lakh crore

PTI / New Delhi

India's top fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation will invest over Rs 4 lakh crore in this decade to expand oil refining and petrochemical business as well as in energy transition projects as part of a plan to become a '360-degree energy company', its chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said on Friday.

IndianOil will invest Rs 1 lakh crore in expanding capacity to refine and turn crude oil into fuel and a staggering Rs 2.4 lakh crore in projects that will help it achieve net-zero carbon emissions from its operations. Another Rs 60,000 crore is planned to be invested in setting up a giant petrochemical complex at Paradip in Odisha.

These investments will help the company continue to meet the rising energy needs of a fast-expanding economy while also treading on the path of the energy transition, he told company shareholders at the annual general meeting.

Vaidya said the past year witnessed waves of volatility that rocked the global energy dy-



namics but IOC kept its promise of fuelling the nation with unwavering commitment.

"As India's energy custodians, your company has crafted a clear roadmap to drive India's energy destiny," he told shareholders. "To fuel the rising energy demand of an ascendant India, we are committed to increasing our share in India's energy pie from the current 9 per cent to around 1/8th or 12.5 per cent by 2050."

For this, IOC is leveraging varied energy

pathways that will establish it "as a 360-degree energy company," he said. "We are well-aligned with the need to ensure equitable energy access and sustainable transition." The firm which controls over 40 per cent of India's fuel market and is the largest oil refiner has set 2046 as the target date for net-zero carbon emissions.

"Our well-crafted blueprint, with a staggered investment plan of about Rs 2.4 lakh crore or USD 30 billion, will take us towards the net-zero destination," he said.

These investments will be in producing green hydrogen to replace one currently used in refineries that come from fossil fuels, renewable energy capacity addition, biofuels, and carbon offsetting.

Its energy transition plans also include an EV charging network and infrastructure to enable electric vehicles to swap chargeable batteries.

While it navigates through the energy transition path, it is imperative that India strengthens its focus on the traditional fuel business, he said.



IndianOil sets sights on being '360-degree energy' firm

India's top fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation will invest over ₹4 trillion in this decade to expand oil refining and petrochemical business as well as in energy transition projects as part of a plan to become a '360-degree energy company', its chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said on Friday. IndianOil will invest ₹1 trillion in expanding capacity to refine and turn crude oil into fuel and a staggering ₹2.4 trillion in projects that will help it achieve net-zero carbon emissions from its operations. Another ₹60,000 crore is planned to be invested in setting up a petrochemical complex at Paradip in Odisha.

PTI



THE COMPASS

Investors may want to bottom-fish in OMC stocks

Macro conditions could improve and valuations are already low

DEVANGSHU DATTA

Margins for the oil refining and retailing sector have moved off their peaks, and the average integrated margins (refining plus marketing) for oil marketing companies (OMCs) have normalised. The ascent in crude oil prices, combined with static retail prices, has depressed marketing margins for diesel and petrol. However, the fall in marketing margins has been offset by increased gross refining margins (GRMs).

The current integrated margin is estimated at about ₹7.4 per litre, which exceeds the average margins of ₹5 per litre in the 2020-21 financial year (FY21) and ₹4.5 per litre in FY22. The rise in crude prices is

often linked to voluntary supply cuts from Saudi Arabia and Russia. However, oil prices are likely to soften as additional supply from non-OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) nations emerges, and due to weak global demand, supply overhangs could transpire.

Commodity traders eyeing futures prices project that crude will linger in the \$75-\$85 per barrel range in the medium term, leading to a normalisation for OMCs' integrated margins. The volume for OMCs had already normalised in the first quarter (Q1) of FY24.

During Q1FY24, crude prices averaged at \$78 per barrel, while they have escalated

to \$85 in Q2. This has thrust gross marketing margins for diesel into the slightly negative territory, and petrol margins are barely in the positive.

However, GRMs have been extraordinarily strong because of seasonal factors and maintenance in Europe, resulting in some refining capacity shut-downs. The benchmark Singapore GRM currently stands at \$14. Russian crude discounts favour Indian OMCs, but the discounts have declined from \$10 levels to \$5. Considering both marketing margin and GRM, the integrated margin for OMCs is higher than usual at ₹7.4 per litre.

In liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), OMCs are thought to be recording healthy margins of around ₹3 per kg, but a substantial proportion of surplus LPG margins (aggregated to an



estimated ₹12,000 crore) is suspended to cover any future under-recovery. This surplus might otherwise be applied to compensate for FY23 under-recoveries in petrol and diesel. OMCs held a combined

market share of 90 per cent in diesel and 91 per cent in petrol in FY22, when marketing margins were at standard levels. In FY23, private refiners lost more market share as marketing margins plunged deeply into the negative.

However, Q1FY24 was robust, with margins escalating to ₹10 per litre, and private players enhancing market share to around 8-9 per cent. If marketing margins persist as net-negative as they currently stand, private market share is likely to wane again. Among the three OMCs, HPCL has recorded a net gain of 88 basis points (bps) and 123 bps in petrol and diesel, respectively, while BPCL had a 13 bps (petrol)/60 bps (diesel) gain, and IOCL had a 21 bps (petrol) gain/loss of 63 bps (diesel), respectively.

If crude remains within the

\$75-\$85 per barrel range, OMCs may likely uphold net positive margins.

The global GRM trend appears favourable, and Russian crude discounts are anticipated to persist.

The aggregate earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) for OMCs was higher in Q1FY24, and volume growth is probable in Q2FY24 as the economy rallies.

Nevertheless, the market seems to be disheartened. Regardless of the outcomes, OMCs are expected to distribute substantial dividends owing to government policy. Stocks of OMCs have declined between 7 and 13 per cent in the previous month. Valuations are already depressed, and investors may perceive a buying opportunity if share prices continue to fall.

IOC holds conference on affordable solar cooking

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In a resolute move to tackle India's persistent clean cooking challenges, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) took the lead in organising an avant-garde conference titled "Leveraging Carbon Finance for Affordable Solar Cooking." This landmark event, held in the capital city, signifies a significant stride toward cleaner and more sustainable culinary practices in the nation.

The conference placed at its heart the fusion of carbon financing and government-backed initiatives, aimed at augmenting the affordability of clean cooking solutions. Amid the discourse, the focal point was the strategic delineation of the trajectory for the extensive adoption of Indian Oil's trailblazing solar cooking technology.

The event came to fruition



through a dynamic collaboration between IOC and eminent knowledge centers, Finovista and Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS). An assembly of industry luminaries, representatives from Union and state governments, influential stakeholders, policymakers, and manufacturers congregated to deliberate on the pressing matter.

Umish Srivastva, Executive Director (AE & IOTDDC) at Indian Oil's R&D Centre, accen-

tuated the innovative nature of the PSU's Indoor Solar Cooking System. Remarkably, this advanced system seamlessly operates on both solar and auxiliary energy sources, establishing it as a dependable cooking solution tailored to India's multifaceted energy milieu.

While, Soumitra Chakraborty, Chief General Manager (Marketing Strategies) at Indian Oil, shared an ambitious vision during his welcome remarks. He envisaged

the remarkable solar cooking solution, named Surya Nutan, to infiltrate three crore households in the upcoming years. This audacious goal, if realized, could wield transformative influence over India's culinary landscape.

The conference generated an environment of synergy and inter-sectoral idea exchange. It squarely addressed the pressing demand to democratize clean cooking solutions, rendering them accessible and economically viable for a broader populace.

These efforts align seamlessly with India's steadfast commitment to sustainable energy practices. Throughout the discourse, the spotlight remained on innovative strategies that not only democratize affordable clean cooking solutions but also contribute to environmental conservation, public health improvement, and

societal advancement through carbon financing mechanisms.

The conference also stands as a clarion call to usher transformative change in India's energy panorama. It convened visionaries, manufacturers, governmental bodies, subject-matter experts, policymakers, and invested stakeholders on a common platform. The event served as a crucible for insightful dialogues, knowledge dissemination, and the formulation of pragmatic and actionable strategies.

IOC, a colossus with a footprint encompassing oil, gas, petrochemicals, and alternative energy sources, has positioned itself at the forefront of India's energy transformation. With a remarkable Revenue from Operations amounting to Rs 9,34,953 crores for the fiscal year 2022-23, this state-owned behemoth extends its influence to touch over a billion lives.

IOC Lines Up ₹2.4 L cr to Achieve Net-zero Emissions Target

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to spend about ₹2.4 lakh crore to achieve its net-zero operational emissions target by 2046, said its chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya.

“Our well-crafted blueprint, with a staggered investment plan of about ₹ 2.4 trillion or \$30 billion, will take us towards the net-zero destination,” Vaidya told shareholders at the company’s annual gathering.

IOC, which is the nation’s largest refiner as well as fossil fuel retailer, also plans to invest about ₹1 lakh crore to expand its refining capacity by a third to 107 million metric tonnes per annum.

“As we navigate through the realms of India’s green agenda, I must also underline that given India’s progress trajectory and geopolitical realities, it is imperative to strengthen our focus on the traditional fuel business,” Vaidya said. He cited the la-

test outlook from the International Energy Agency, which shows India’s oil demand rising from the current 5 million barrels per day (mbpd) to 7 mbpd by 2030, and about 9 mbpd by 2040.



IOC also plans to invest ₹1L cr to expand its refining capacity

“We have seen how the tumultuous geopolitical events that unfolded last year led to the rearrange-

ment of the energy baskets of the developed economies, leaning towards conventional fuels,” said Vaidya. He said IOC is collaborating with Italy’s Snam to explore the possibility of converting the existing natural gas pipelines for hydrogen transportation. IOC’s board has accorded go-ahead approval for the setting up of a petrochemical complex in Odisha at an estimated cost of about ₹ 61,000 crore, Vaidya. —Our Bureau

IOC unveils ₹4L cr plan for expansion, transition

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: IndianOil on Friday laid out a Rs 4 lakh crore roadmap for becoming a '360-degree' energy company by pushing energy transition projects along with expansion of refining and petrochemicals capacities.

"As India's energy custodians, your company has crafted a clear roadmap to drive India's energy destiny. To fuel the rising energy demand of an ascendant India, we are committed to increasing our share in India's energy pie from the current 9% to around 12.5% by 2050," chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya told shareholders at the AGM.

The company will spend Rs 1 lakh crore on expanding refining capacity and Rs 2.4 lakh crore on projects for achieving net-zero carbon emissions from its operations. Another Rs 60,000 crore will be spent on building a petrochemical complex at Paradip in Odisha.

IndianOil is leveraging varied energy pathways that will establish it "as a 360-degree energy company", Vaidya said. "We are well aligned with the need to ensure equitable energy access and sustainable transition," he added.

निवेश
आईओसी के चेयरमैन श्रीकांत माधव वैद्य ने जानकारी दी

इंडियन ऑयल ऊर्जा बदलाव पर करेगी निवेश

वैभव न्यूज ■ नई दिल्ली

देश की सबसे बड़ी खुदरा पेट्रोलियम विक्रेता इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन (आईओसी) अपने रिफाइनिंग एवं पेट्रोसायन कारोबार के विस्तार और ऊर्जा बदलाव से जुड़ी परियोजनाओं पर मौजूदा दशक में चार लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक निवेश करेगी। आईओसी के चेयरमैन श्रीकांत माधव वैद्य ने शुक्रवार को सालाना आमसभा में कंपनी के शेयरधारकों को संबोधित करते हुए यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि आईओसी कच्चे तेल को ईंधन में बदलने और रिफाइनिंग क्षमताओं के विस्तार पर इस अवधि



में एक लाख करोड़ रुपये निवेश करेगी जबकि 2.4 लाख करोड़ रुपये का बड़ा निवेश शुद्ध रूप से शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन लक्ष्य को हासिल करने में मददगार परियोजनाओं पर किया जाएगा। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनी ओडिशा के पारादीप में एक विशाल पेट्रोसायन परिसर

लगाने पर भी 60,000 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करने जा रही है। आईओसी के चेयरमैन श्रीकांत माधव वैद्य ने कहा कि आईओसी को इन निवेश योजनाओं से तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था में बढ़ रही ऊर्जा मांग को पूरा करने में मदद मिलेगी। इसके अलावा कंपनी ऊर्जा बदलाव की राह

पर भी चलकर शुद्ध-शून्य उत्सर्जन के लक्ष्य तक पहुंच पाएगी। आईओसी के चेयरमैन श्रीकांत माधव वैद्य ने कहा, पिछले साल उतार-चढ़ाव ने वैश्विक ऊर्जा परिदृश्य को हिलाकर रख दिया था लेकिन आईओसी ने देश के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता पूरी शिद्दत से निभाई। भारत के ऊर्जा संरक्षक के रूप में आपकी कंपनी ने देश के ऊर्जा परिदृश्य के लिए एक स्पष्ट रोडमैप तैयार किया है। इसके साथ ही उन्होंने कहा कि आईओसी देश के ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में अपनी हिस्सेदारी को वर्ष 2050 तक बढ़ाकर 12.5 प्रतिशत तक ले जाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है जो फिलहाल नौ प्रतिशत है।

कार्यशाला में दी प्राकृतिक गैस सीएनजी व पीएनजी के प्रयोग की जानकारी



वैभव न्यूज़ मित्राणी

उपायुक्त नरेश नरवाल के मार्गदर्शन में स्थानीय लघु सचिवालय स्थित डीआरडीए हॉल में जिला परिषद सीईओ मनोज दलाल की अध्यक्षता में जिला उद्योग एवं वाणिज्य विभाग द्वारा एक कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यशाला में सीएनजी व पीएनजी को अपनाने के लिए सीजीडी संस्थाओं और स्थानीय उद्योगों के प्रतिनिधियों को विस्तार से जानकारी दी गई।

जिला परिषद सीईओ श्री दलाल ने कहा कि प्राकृतिक गैसों को उद्योगों में प्रयोग करने से पर्यावरण संरक्षण होगा। वर्कशॉप का मुख्य उद्देश्य हरियाणा सरकार की ओर से औद्योगिक इकाइयों के लिए किए गए सुधारों के विषय में विस्तार से

जानकारी उपलब्ध करवाना है। उन्होंने बताया कि राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र में एक अक्टूबर से नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल जनरेटर या वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा के तौर पर डीजल के प्रयोग को बंद करने का फैसला लिया है। इसलिए सभी उद्योगपति सोलर एनर्जी, एलपीजी, सीएनजी व पीएनजी के प्रयोग के लिए नए उपकरणों की खरीद पर विचार करें।

उन्होंने कहा कि लघु उद्योग संगठन इस बात के बारे में सोचें कि जनरेटर या मशीनों में डीजल का प्रयोग बंद होने के बाद उनके उत्पाद पर नए उपकरणों के प्रयोग से कितनी लागत आएगी। एनसीआर एरिया में पर्यावरण प्रदूषण को कम करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार व एनजीटी ने डीजल बंद करने का निर्णय लिया है।

डीजल जेनरेटर सैट के प्रयोग में नियमों की अनुपालना, 1 अक्तूबर से शुरू होगा ग्रैप

सोनीपत (राजेश आहूजा) औद्योगिक इकाइयों तथा बड़े संस्थानों में डीजल जेनरेटर सैट के प्रयोग में नियमों की पूर्ण अनुपालना करना होगा। जहाँ भी डीजल के जेनरेटर सैट प्रयोग में लाये जाते हैं वहाँ पर नियमों की उल्लंघना नहीं होनी चाहिए। विशेष रूप से ग्रैप टाईमिंग में नियमों की अनुपालना का खासतौर पर ध्यान रखा जाए, ताकि पर्यावरण संरक्षण को बल मिले। औद्योगिक इकाइयों के साथ बड़े संस्थानों में डीजल सैट के प्रयोग को लेकर लागू किये गये नियमों की पूर्ण अनुपालना करवाने के उद्देश्य से लघु सचिवालय में बैठक का आयोजन किया गया। जिसको अध्यक्षता उपायुक्त डा. मनोज कुमार ने करते हुए कहा कि पर्यावरण संरक्षण की मजबूती के लिए 1 अक्तूबर से ग्रैप (ग्रेडिड रिस्पॉन्स एक्शन प्लान) शुरू हो रहा है। ग्रैप की टाईमिंग के दौरान डीजल जेनरेटर सैट के प्रयोग के लिए विशेष नियम लागू होंगे, जिनकी अनुपालना जरूरी है।

इस दौरान उपायुक्त ने उद्योगपतियों को सुनवाई भी की, जिसमें बिजली की निर्यात आपूर्ति व अयोधित कट न लगवाने की मांग रखी गई। उपायुक्त ने कहा कि इस दिशा में निश्चित तौर पर कदम बढ़ाये जायेंगे। इसके लिए वे स्वयं अलग से बिजली निगम के अधिकारियों को बैठक लेंगे, जिसमें बिजली आपूर्ति के सुधार पर चर्चा की जाएगी। गैस सख्ताई के लिए भी वे संबंधित अधिकारियों के साथ अलग से बैठक करेंगे। साथ ही उन्होंने कहा कि औद्योगिक इकाइयों में प्रयोग किये जाने वाले डीजल जेनरेटर सैट में 30 सितंबर तक सीएक्वएम लगवाना सुनिश्चित करें। उपायुक्त के निर्देश पर इस संदर्भ में प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी प्रदीप सिंह ने विस्तृत जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि औद्योगिक इकाइयों में एलपीजी, नेचुरल गैस व विभिन्न प्रकार की गैस के प्रयोग को लेकर व्यवस्था में कोई बदलाव नहीं है और न ही कोई प्रतिबंध है। उन्होंने

जानकारी दी कि 19 किलोवाट तक के डीजल जेनरेटर सैट के प्रयोग को लेकर कोई प्रतिबंध है, जिनका प्रयोग पूरा वर्ष किया जा सकता है। इसके बाद 19 किलोवाट से 125 किलोवाट तक के डीजल सैट को ड्यूल फ्यूल मोड पर करवाना जरूरी है, जिसमें 70 प्रतिशत गैस तथा 30 प्रतिशत डीजल का प्रयोग होगा। ग्रैप के समय ऐसे डीजल सैट को दो घंटे तक प्रयोग किया जा सकेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि 800 किलोवाट के डीजल सैट इंटरद्वी में ही प्रयोग किये जाते हैं, जिनमें सीएक्वएम सिस्टम (कमिशन फॉर एयर क्वालिटी मॉनिटरिंग अथॉरिटी) लगवाना आवश्यक है, जिसके बाद संबंधित इंटरद्वी को नियमों में छूट मिल जाएगी। साथ ही उन्होंने बताया कि 800 किलोवाट से ऊपर के डीजल सैट को ग्रैप टाईमिंग में दो घंटे हो चलाने की अनुमति मिलेगी। सीएक्वएम अथवा रेट्रो फिटिंग सिस्टम लगवाना जरूरी है।