

OMCs may look at fuel price cut: Oil minister Puri

"SEVERAL THINGS DECIDE the price of crude oil, including the cost of transportation and insurance. The cost of transportation and insurance has the ability to spiral up, if there is disturbance in the Red Sea or elsewhere," Puri said. The price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil touched \$77 per barrel on Tuesday, while Brent hovered around \$81-\$82 per barrel despite the OPEC decision to continue the voluntary cuts of 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) till September 2024.

In March, the state-run oil marketing companies had cut the retail prices of petrol and

diesel by ₹2 per litre. Analysts see OMCs resuming the daily revision of fuel prices now that the elections are over.

Puri said that India is among the few nations in the world where fuel prices have declined post the outbreak of conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Moreover, under his new term as the oil minister, the focus would be on boosting oil and gas exploration and production, green hydrogen, and increasing the consumption of gas in the country to achieve a gas-based economy, he said.

He said that ONGC is expected to reach the peak pro-



duction of 45,000 barrels per day of crude oil from its KG-98/2 block soon, which will aid in domestic output. Earlier in an investor call, the company had said it expects its oil production from the KG-98/2 block to

increase to 20,000 barrels per day in Q3FY2024-25 and then subsequently reach its peak production of 45,000 barrels per day in Q4FY25. It also expects the KG block to produce 10 million metric standard cubic metre per day (mmscmd) of gas, its peak capacity, by FY25 end.

The ministry will also conduct the 9th and 10th bidding rounds under Open Acreage Licensing Programme in the coming few weeks, Puri said.

While focusing on increasing domestic production, the government is also gearing up to increase the domestic refining capacity. BPCL currently oper-

ates refineries at Mumbai, Kochi in Kerala, and Bina in Madhya Pradesh. Last year, PM Modi had laid the foundation stone of BPCL's petrochemical complex and refinery expansion wherein capacity of Bina Refinery would be enhanced to 11 MTPA in the next five years.

BPCL aims to expand its refining capacity to 45 million tonne per annum by FY29, the company's top management had said earlier. To achieve the same, it has earmarked ₹75,000 crore for refineries and petchem projects of the total capex target of ₹1.7 trillion over the next five years.

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Boosting Oil & Gas Production, Green H2 Promotion on Top of Agenda



Hardeep Puri
Petroleum & Natural Gas

New Delhi: Boosting domestic oil and gas production, promoting green hydrogen and increasing ethanol use will be the key priorities of the government, oil minister Hardeep Puri has said. Profitable state-run oil companies like BPCL will not be divested, he added.

"There is an essential continuity of what we have done in the last three years," Puri told a news conference after taking charge as the oil minister for a second time.

Puri first assumed charge of the oil ministry in July 2021 in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and steered the sector through a stretched global energy crisis, triggered by the post-pandemic economic recovery and the wars. "Amidst all those challenges, we have performed rather well on availability, affordability and sustainability," he said. Global energy markets have now returned to normal.

BPCL to build new refinery; India eyes oil deals with Russia and others, says Puri

PTI / New Delhi

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is looking to build a new oil refinery to meet the rising demand for fuels like petrol and diesel, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Tuesday as he took charge of the ministry for the second time.

Listing his priorities in the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's third term, he said finding and producing more oil and gas to cut India's import reliance, green hydrogen,



natural gas and refining and petrochemicals will be top priorities.

The government has in recent years ensured "availability, affordability and sustainability" of energy to citizens, he said. "We have performed well."

And this will be the mantra in Modi 3.0 as well, he said.

On securing supplies of crude oil, which is refined into fuels like petrol and diesel, he said India has diversified its sources of supplies including from Russia.

From buying less than a per-

centage of its total imports, India emerged as the biggest buyer of Russian sea-borne oil, snapping up barrels sold at a discount as some Western nations halted purchases after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"We are a longstanding partner of the Russian federation. We have had discussion with the Russians on long-term deals," he said. "I am confident that both our private and public sector players will sign long-term deals with countries where they see benefit in doing so."

He said BPCL is looking to build its fourth oil refinery in the country.

Faulty fuel bills? Regulator building a solution for you

Rituraj Baruah
rituraj.baruah@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

India's petroleum and natural gas regulator is looking at creating the post of an ombudsman to hear and resolve grievances of customers of city gas distribution (CGD) networks, among other consumer-friendly initiatives, the regulator's top official said.

Anil Jain, chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) said in an interview that the PNGRB Act gives powers to the regulator in terms of consumer protection, and a committee has been set up that would soon submit its report.

"PNGRB is already framing the regulations. The draft regulations should be out by the end of July. We are also planning to set up regional offices and an ombudsman to sort out the disputes at the local level," Jain said.

The ombudsman would



Anil Jain, chairman, PNGRB.
PIB.GOV.IN

look into customer grievances related to compressed natural gas (CNG), piped natural gas (PNG), petrol, diesel and LPG (liquefied petroleum gas).

On the nature of grievances the ombudsman would look into, Jain said that they would range from alleged high tariffs collected from PNG consumers, complaints regarding delay in initiation or setting up of a new connection, delay in repair of pipe leakages, overpricing by petrol pumps, lower

dispatch of petrol and diesel to customers, no proper display of prices, long waiting time, and lack of public conveniences at pumps, among others.

The setting up of regional offices would help the regulator get closer to the consumers, Jain said, adding that it would also help in resolving the issues at local level.

The PNGRB Act of 2006 speaks of nomination of an ombudsman who is not an employee of the entity, with the prior approval of the board. However, such a nomination has not taken place so far as the required regulations were not in place.

With the formulation of the regulations by the board for setting up a grievance redressal system and an ombudsman under way, movement may be witnessed on this front.

This move comes on the backdrop of a rapidly growing

TURN TO PAGE 4

Plan for ombudsman to handle fuel complaints

FROM PAGE 1

CGD network. About 12.1 million domestic PNG connections and 6,258 CNG stations have been established in the country so far.

The number of CNG stations in the country has increased over fourfold to 6,546 stations currently, from 1,424 in FY18. While, the number of PNG connections have grown about threefold to 12.62 million, from nearly 4.3 million in

FY18.

Further, despite oil marketing companies having customer care numbers for complaints against petrol pumps for alleged frauds or sale of less fuel to the customers, such complaints keep coming up now and then from every nook and corner of the country. Specific data on the number of complaints is unavailable.

Earlier this year, the regulatory board concluded the 12th CGD bidding round.

Faulty fuel bills? Regulator building a solution for you

PNGRB Act gives powers to the regulator to protect the CGD consumers

Rituraj Baruah

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India eyes oil deals with nations including Russia, minister says

PTI



New Delhi: Oil minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** on Tuesday announced that Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd plans to build a new refinery and the nation is looking at signing more oil import deals with countries, including Russia at discounted rates. Puri, who took charge of the ministry for a second time on Tuesday, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to provide energy at affordable prices to customers to cushion them from the volatile oil markets.

REUTERS



'Mumbai High stake not up for sale'

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will not give any equity stake in its flagship Mumbai High oil and gas fields to any foreign company and is only seeking help from global giants like BP Plc. to reverse declining output from the field, a top government official said on Tuesday.

The foreign company will get a share of revenue from incremental production plus a fixed fee for its efforts, while ONGC will continue to be the operator and incur all the capital and operating expenditure in implementation of the technical solution, the official said.

PTI

No plan to privatise BPCL: Hardeep Singh Puri

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

PETROLEUM minister Hardeep Singh Puri has dismissed any possibility of privatisation of state-owned refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) citing the company's significant profits.

Puri, addressing media after assuming the ministry's responsibilities for the second time, emphasised that there would be no immediate reduction in petrol and diesel prices unless global crude prices drop below \$70-80 a barrel. "BPCL has generated more revenue in the first three quarters than the stake sale amount," he said.

The government had planned to sell its entire 52.98% stake in BPCL, expecting to fetch estimated ₹45,000 crore in FY22. Expressions of Interest (EoI) or initial bids for this were invited by the government in March 2020. BPCL, India's second-largest oil marketing company after Indian Oil, with refineries in Mumbai, Kochi, and Madhya Pradesh, possesses the third-



largest refining capacity after Reliance and Indian Oil.

The minister highlighted the need to bring petrol and diesel within the purview of GST regime in the future. Last week, petroleum secretary expressed cautious optimism about this occurring in the current year.

The minister said the oil PSUs have performed well. Oil production is expected to reach 45,000 barrels a day soon.

Other ministers take charge

Among other economic minis-

ters who took charge of their office on Tuesday include Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industries.

Upon assuming office, Goyal immediately convened a review meeting with senior officers from both departments within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Commerce Secretary and DPI-

IT Secretary presented briefs on the ongoing proposals and action items of the ministry.

While assuming charge of his office, Jyotiraditya Scindia, newly appointed Minister of Communications, emphasised the significant roles both telecom sector and the India Post division play on both the global and local stages. Newly-appointed power minister Manohar Lal Khattar discussed the addition of power generation, transmission, and battery storage capacities in the country during a meeting with officials and PSU CMDs on his first day in office.

Two officials said that during the inaugural meeting, the minister emphasised capacity addition, particularly focusing on battery storage.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the government is considering postponing implementation of income tax rules affecting MSMEs tax deductions that came into effect from April 1 this year.

Opec keeps 2024 oil demand growth forecast unchanged

REUTERS
London, 11 June

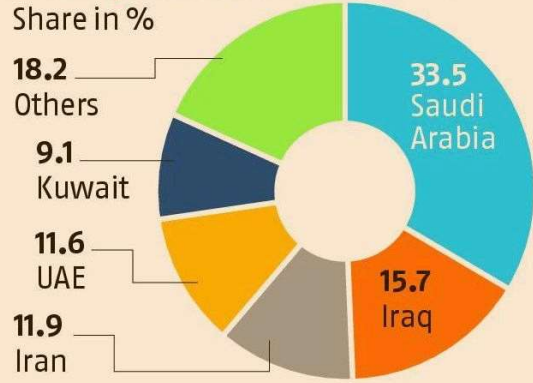
The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) on Tuesday stuck to its forecast for relatively strong growth in global oil demand in 2024, despite lower-than-expected use in the first quarter, saying travel and tourism would support consumption in the second half of the year.

Opec, in a monthly report, said world oil demand will rise by 2.25 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2024 and by 1.85 million bpd in 2025.

Both forecasts were unchanged from last month. Opec's report is the latest to flag robust oil market conditions heading into the second half of the year. Oil rose 3 per cent on Monday after Goldman Sachs said transport demand would push the market into a

TRACKING OUTPUT

Share of countries in Opec crude production (May 2024)



Source: Bloomberg; Compiled by BS Research Bureau

third-quarter deficit. Opec said steady global economic growth has continued in the first half of 2024 and forecast that world oil demand would rise by 2.3 million bpd in the second half. "Globally,

the services sector maintains a stable momentum," Opec said.

"It is projected to be the main contributor to the economic growth dynamic in the second half of 2024."

Average daily crude production by Opec



OPEC'S GAMBIT TO KEEP OIL PRICES AFLOAT

THE Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (OPEC+), on June 2, decided to extend its deep oil output cuts into 2025. At the same time, it hinted at a partial roll-back in the last quarter of this year, as it reported a steady May output at 26.96 million barrels per day. Production cut extensions are efforts at lending buoyancy to prices as well as “to stabilise and balance the oil market in times of uncertainty”. Major producers within the group intend to taper cuts gradually, subject to market conditions, though slower macroeconomic growth and a cautious monetary outlook remain a drag on such a move.

A constellation of conditions comprising economic sentiment, geopolitics and political equations significantly reflect on OPEC's production and distribution policies. The 1956 Suez canal block that led to the rationing of fuel in France and the UK, the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the 1979 Iranian revolution, the current Gaza crisis and similar turbulence in the Middle East have often sent oil prices flaring.

The markets are witnessing a muted reaction this time, with Latin America emerging as the *nouveau* oil frontier, a game-changer on the global supply scene. In response to an invitation to join OPEC+ in December last year, Brazil “declined to be a full member and instead only seeks to participate as an observer”. Brasilia is forging global energy partnerships, as the world's top three oil consumers—the US, China and India—are establishing alliances for exploration and production in the region.

Though the 1973 oil embargo and its recessionary effect was a strain on Saudi-US relations, more than 50 years later, the two countries' economic ideologies still revolve around the theme of oil and security. The 1990 Persian Gulf War led the Bush administration to launch Operation Desert Shield, stationing US troops in Saudi Arabia to safeguard Kuwaiti and Saudi oil fields. Saudi Arabian oil and American weaponry complement each other well.

As soon as the UN imposed its embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti exports, Saudi Aramco—at the US's urging—initiated a production increase to cover the shortfall. The oil giant advanced the timetable to implement its crude expansion programme. Riyadh spent \$4.7 billion reviving mothballed oil wells, drilling new ones and developing five offshore gas-oil separation plants. Output rose from 5.4 million bpd in July 1990 to



RANJAN TANDON



Senior markets specialist and author

8.5 million bpd by December 1990. Around 3,00,000 bpd were provided free to the allied troops. The move kept crude prices reined in and strengthened US-Saudi relations.

In the last five years, economics has, to an extent, eclipsed political motivations. Riyadh is keen to shrink its dependence on oil while developing other sources of revenue. The lure of overseas financial participation prompted the kingdom to offer for sale Aramco shares this past week, amid fervent investor interest, in an effort to unlock its hidden worth.



Angola's exit from OPEC in December 2023, as it could ill afford restraints in times of Africa's evolving oil dominance, a move that followed the footsteps of Ecuador and Qatar a few years back. The UAE had, earlier in the year, confronted the Saudis on the issue of capacity; with the Abu Dhabi National Oil recently reporting a higher maximum crude capacity on its website, it could seek a further increase in quota. As oil constitutes 90 percent of its exports and is a catalyst for Kuwait's Vision 2035 programme, it requires a larger share as volumes rise at its three domestic refineries.

Moscow holds a large inventory of crude on the back of dwindling processing capacity post Ukrainian attacks on Russian refineries, as it lobbies for an upward revision. Flouting output cut commitment and higher production figures reported by Iraq and Kazakhstan have precipitated tensions within the bloc, indicative of a gradual withdrawal of reductions.

The El Sharara oil field in Libya's Murzuq desert, holding the largest proven reserves in Africa, recently emerged from a shutdown. Any curbs on Libya would be a blow to the nation's fractured economy. Despite the lack of investment in Nigeria's oil industry, the recent partial commissioning of Dangote refinery near Lagos could affect its capacity utilisation and quota allocation. In a surprise retraction, the audit exercise stands postponed by a year, citing the ongoing Ukraine war as a deterrent in case of Russia. The move is seen to maintain solidarity within the group.

Negotiating through this maze of economic and political complexity is a tough task as the relevance of fuel prices remain sacrosanct in an election year when Washington and Brussels are keen to keep energy costs low and have often called for an increase in OPEC+ output. Yet, speculative intent remains inherent to oil prices.

As T Boone Pickens, the American oil magnate and financier, once remarked, “It has become cheaper to look for oil on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange than in the ground.”

*(Views are personal)
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The imposition of output curbs triggered Angola's exit from OPEC in December 2023, as the nation could ill afford restraints when Africa's oil dominance was evolving. Similarly, curbs on Libya's El Sharara oil field would be a blow to the nation's fractured economy

Saudi Arabia, as the de facto leader of the OPEC, has closely monitored output reductions within the cartel, in the midst of increased flow from other major producers such as the US, to shore up oil prices above the \$85-mark and balance its budget. Aiming to tighten the market further, the issue of ‘capacity assessment and utilisation’ was resurrected recently as three independent consultants were commissioned to conduct a fresh audit. With heavy reliance on oil income for pushing their economic agenda, the capacity estimation exercise has initiated stress among the fraternity on earlier occasions too.

The imposition of output curbs triggered

● TOURISM TO SUPPORT CONSUMPTION IN H2

OPEC sticks to 2024 oil demand growth forecast

ALEX LAWLER
London, June 11

OPEC ON TUESDAY stuck to its forecast for relatively strong growth in global oil demand in 2024, despite lower-than-expected use in the first quarter, saying travel and tourism would support consumption in the second half of the year.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), in a monthly report, said world oil demand will rise by 2.25 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2024 and by 1.85 million bpd in 2025. Both forecasts were unchanged from last month.

OPEC's report is the latest to flag robust oil market conditions heading into the second half of the year. Oil rose 3% on Monday after Goldman Sachs said transport demand would push the market into a third-quarter deficit.

OPEC said steady global economic growth has continued in the first half of 2024 and forecast that world oil demand would rise by 2.3 million bpd in the second half. "Globally, the services sector maintains a stable momentum," OPEC said.

"It is projected to be the main contributor to the economic growth dynamic in the second half of 2024, particularly supported by

THE OIL SAGA

■ World oil demand will rise by **2.25 million bpd** in 2024 and by **1.85 million bpd** in 2025

■ Steady global economic growth has continued in H1 of 2024

■ OPEC forecasts that world oil demand would rise by **2.3 mn bpd** in H2

■ IAEA, which represents industrialised countries, expects much lower demand growth than OPEC of **1.1 mn bpd**



travel and tourism, with a consequent positive impact on oil demand." OPEC+, which groups OPEC and allies such as Russia, has implemented a series of output cuts since late 2022 to support the market. The group agreed on June 2 to extend the latest cut of 2.2 million bpd until the end of September and gradually phase it out from October.

Oil was steady after the OPEC report was released with Brent crude edging down towards \$81 a barrel.

Demand view split

There is a wider than usual split between forecasters on the strength of oil demand growth in

2024, partly due to differences over the pace of the world's transition to cleaner fuels.

The report showed that OPEC, at the high end of forecasts, is sticking to its guns. Although OPEC lowered its estimate of total demand in the first quarter of this year by 50,000 bpd to 103.51 million bpd, it increased its second-quarter forecast by the same increment and made no change to its full-year figure.

The International Energy Agency (IEA), which represents industrialised countries, expects much lower demand growth than OPEC of 1.1 million bpd and is scheduled to provide an update on its view on Wednesday. —REUTERS



Petroleum sector to witness policy continuity, says Puri

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, JUNE 11

INDIA'S OIL and gas sector will see continuity in government policy and initiatives of the past few years, building on the work that has been done in priority segments of the energy space, Union Cabinet Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Tuesday after resuming charge of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

Puri, who was at the helm of the MoPNG in the previous government since 2021, was reallocated the portfolio on Monday following the swearing in of the new government. The petroleum minister said that energy "availability, affordability, and sustainability" has been the mantra or philosophy of the Narendra Modi government and it shall continue to guide the government's actions in this new term as well. In an interaction with reporters after taking charge as the petroleum minister on Tuesday, Puri identified five key segments that are likely to see additional thrust from his ministry. These are: oil and gas exploration and production, refinery and petrochemicals, natural gas, bio-



Hardeep Singh Puri assumes charge as Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

PTI

fuels, and green hydrogen.

India is a major energy consumer and its demand is rapidly rising. India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil but depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirement. The country is also a large consumer of natural gas with an import dependency level of around 50 per cent. Raising domestic output of oil and gas has been a key priority of the government to reduce reliance on costly energy imports.

Puri said that two rounds of auction of new oil and gas blocks are expected over the next few weeks, and the government will also be encouraging upstream oil

and gas companies to focus on enhancing output from ageing fields by collaborating with international players with expertise in technical services for the petroleum sector.

Over the past couple of years, purchase of discounted crude from Russia has helped Indian refiners in slightly softening the impact of extreme price volatility in global energy markets. On being asked if public sector refiners are looking to ink term deals with Russia for cheaper oil purchases, Puri said that they are looking at Russia and even other suppliers for cheaper oil.

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‘Working to start levying GST on auto fuels, ATF’

Rishi Ranjan Kala

New Delhi

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas will work to start levying the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on petrol, diesel, and ATF, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday.

Asked about imposing GST on these fuels, Puri said, “We will try. The Minister of State (Suresh Gopi) and I will both work on it.”

Sources said that to levy GST on petrol, diesel, and ATF (aviation turbine fuel), the Ministry has to make a recommendation to the Finance Ministry that, in turn, will put it up to the GST Council.

IN GST COUNCIL'S COURT

At present, crude oil, petrol (MS), diesel (HSD), ATF, and natural gas are part of the GST. However, per Section 12 (5) of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, the GST Council shall recommend the date from which the tax will be levied on such products. The GST Council has to just decide the date from which to levy the tax.

Now, the Centre levies excise duty on auto fuels, while States impose a value-added



Hardeep Singh Puri,
Oil Minister ANI

tax (VAT) and sales tax. Levying GST on the two auto fuels and crude oil has been a long-standing demand as it would bring down their prices, benefiting the common man. Almost every political party has advocated for it at some point.

However, there has not been a consensus on this at the GST Council. The general fear is that States and the Centre will take a hit on tax revenues.

In FY24 (provisional), the total contribution of the petroleum sector to the exchequer stood at around ₹7.51-lakh crore, of which the Centre's share was ₹4.32-lakh crore and the States' ₹3.18-lakh crore. In FY23, the contribution stood at around ₹7.48-lakh crore, with the Centre getting ₹4.28-lakh crore and

States ₹3.20-lakh crore. Another issue is that the maximum rate of tax under GST can be 50 per cent, including cess. However, the rate of tax on petrol and diesel is more than 60 per cent. The current rate of tax on diesel is 50.76 per cent. This is calculated by taking the base price in Delhi as of March 16, 2024, which is the last date of revision. The tax on petrol or motor spirit was 63.4 per cent as of March 16, according to another source.

“This is against the principle of revenue neutral rate (RNR),” the source added.

OMC DISINVESTMENT

The Oil Minister said that the government will not divest its stake in oil marketing companies (OMCs). This comes after the government scrapped the divestment of Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) in June 2022.

CRUDE DEALS

Asked about long-term crude oil supply deals with Russia, Puri said the Ministry had had conversations on long-term deals and is confident that both private and public sector companies will enter into long-term deals if they find them economically viable.

पेट्रोल पंप पर खड़े तेल के टैंकर में आग लगने से हड़कंप

पश्चिमी दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): राजा पुरी डाबड़ी इलाके में मंगलवार दोपहर एक पेट्रोल पंप पर तेल के टैंकर में आग लगने से हड़कंप मच गया। टैंकर से आग की ऊंची लपटे उठती देख वहां तैनात स्टाफ तुरंत हरकत में आया और आग बुझाने वाले सिलेंडर लेकर टैंकर की ओर दौड़े। स्टाफ ने बहादुरी दिखाते हुए समय रहते टैंकर में लगी आग पर काबू पा लिया। अन्यथा पेट्रोल पंप पर एक बड़ा हादसा हो सकता था। पुलिस के मुताबिक दोपहर करीब पौने दो बजे इस घटना की सूचना मिली। टैंकर के ऊपरी हिस्से पर आग की लपटें उठ रही थीं। गनीमत रही कि वहां तैनात कर्मचारियों ने समय रहते आग पर काबू पा लिया। हादसे में किसी के हताहत होने की सूचना नहीं है। वहीं, आग की सूचना मिलते ही दमकल की गाड़ियां भी पहुंच गईं। पेट्रोल पंप के एक स्टाफ ने बताया दोपहर को एक टैंकर पेट्रोल पंप पर पहुंचा था। आजकल इन टैंकर के ऊपर सेंसर वायर लगी हैं, टैंकर के ऊपर लगे लॉक सेंसर के जरिए ही पेट्रोल पंप पर पहुंचने के बाद ही खुलते हैं। आग पर काबू कर लिया गया है।

बीपीसीएल का विनिवेश नहीं होगा: पुरी

पेट्रोलियम मंत्री ने कहा, कच्चे तेल की कीमत 75-80 डॉलर प्रति बैरल रही तो कंपनियां घटा सकती हैं ईंधन के दाम

शुभायन चक्रवर्ती

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने दूसरी बार मंत्रालय का कार्यभार संभालने के बाद मंगलवार को कहा कि भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) एक उच्च राजस्व वाला सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रम (पीएसयू) है और इसके निजीकरण की योजना पूरी तरह से बंद कर दी गई है।

पुरी ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार तेल पीएसयू में अपनी हिस्सेदारी नहीं बेचना चाह रही है। उन्होंने कहा, 'हम बीपीसीएल जैसी अत्यधिक सफल महारत्न कंपनी को क्यों बेचेंगे?' तेल की इस प्रमुख कंपनी में सरकार की 52.98 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी है। इसके विनिवेश की योजना इसलिए रद्द कर दी गई क्योंकि संभावित खरीदारों की ओर से पर्याप्त संख्या में बोलियां नहीं मिलीं। पुरी ने ज्यादा जानकारी नहीं देते हुए बताया कि बीपीसीएल नई रिफाइनरियां स्थापित करने के लिए उन्नत चरण में है। इस बीच, इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (आईओसीएल) 33,023 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से तमिलनाडु के नागपट्टिनम में अपनी मौजूदा बीपीसीएल संचालित रिफाइनरी के साथ 90 लाख टन क्षमता वाली अतिरिक्त रिफाइनरी का निर्माण कर रही है।

केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम मंत्री ने कहा कि ऑयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) जल्द ही काकिनाडा तट से दूर कृष्णा-गोदावरी बेसिन के केजी-डीडब्ल्यूएन-98/2 ब्लॉक में अपनी महत्वाकांक्षी गहरे पानी की परियोजना से गैस उत्पादन शुरू करेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि इस ब्लॉक से तेल उत्पादन जल्द ही बढ़कर 45,000 बैरल प्रतिदिन हो जाएगा। पुरी ने जोर देते हुए कहा, 'पश्चिमी अपतट से ओएनजीसी ने एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय तकनीकी साझेदार प्राप्त करने के लिए निविदा जारी की है। 75 अरब डॉलर से अधिक सालाना राजस्व वाली सभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय तेल एवं गैस कंपनियों को इसमें भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया है।'

मंत्री ने कहा कि अगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की कीमतें 75 से 80 डॉलर प्रति बैरल रहती हैं तो तेल विपणन कंपनियां पंप पर कीमतें कम करने पर विचार कर सकती हैं। उन्होंने इस बात पर भी जोर दिया कि पेट्रोल और डीजल को आने वाले समय में वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (जीएसटी) के दायरे में लाने की जरूरत है।



केंद्रीय मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने मंगलवार को पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय का कार्यभार संभाला

आने वाली बड़ी परियोजनाएं

मंत्री ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन और जैव ईंधन क्षेत्र में भारत की उपस्थिति का विस्तार प्रमुख लक्ष्य रहेगा। उन्होंने कहा, 'हमारी कई तेल कंपनियां ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन की आपूर्ति के लिए निविदाएं जारी करने की प्रक्रिया में हैं। हम ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन वाली बसें चलाने वाले दुनिया का पहला देश हैं, और हमारे यहां ऐसी 15 बसें चलने लगी हैं।' मंत्री ने घोषणा की कि आईओसीएल जल्द ही पानीपत में 10 किलो टन प्रति वर्ष (केटीए) क्षमता वाले ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन संयंत्र स्थापित करेगा। इसके साथ ही मथुरा (5 केटीए) और पारादीप (10 केटीए) में भी संयंत्र लगाए जाएंगे।



बीपीसीएल नई तेल रिफाइनरी बनाएगी

नई दिल्ली। पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने मंगलवार को दूसरी बार मंत्रालय का कार्यभार संभाला। उन्होंने कहा कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) एक नई तेल रिफाइनरी बनाने पर विचार कर रही है।

अपनी प्राथमिकताओं का जिक्र करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि भारत की आयात निर्भरता को कम करने के लिए अधिक तेल और गैस की खोज और उत्पादन पर जोर दिया जाएगा। इसके अलावा सरकार की शीर्ष प्राथमिकताओं में हरित हाइड्रोजन, प्राकृतिक गैस और रिफाइनिंग तथा पेट्रोरसायन शामिल हैं।

बीपीसीएल लगाएगी नई रिफाइनरी : पुरी

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री के तौर पर अपने दूसरे कार्यकाल की शुरुआत करते हुए हरदीप पुरी ने कहा कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की भारत पेट्रोलियम (बीपीसीएल) देश में एक नई रिफाइनरी लगाने पर विचार कर रही है। इसके अलावा एक अन्य सरकारी कंपनी गेल लिमिटेड एथनाल क्रैकर यूनिट लगाने जा रही है। ये दोनों ग्रीन फील्ड प्रोजेक्ट होंगे यानी इनके लिए जमीन अधिग्रहण से लेकर निर्माण तक का काम होगा। यह भारत सरकार की नई नीति के तहत स्थापित होंगे। पूरी दुनिया में पेट्रोलियम सेक्टर में नई रिफाइनरी लगाना तकरीबन बंद हो चुका है। हालांकि इसके बावजूद भारत सरकार देश में नई रिफाइनरी लगाने की योजना पर काम कर रही है। इसके पीछे कारण यह बताया जा रहा है कि दुनिया में अगले 30-40 वर्षों तक पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की मांग तेज बनी रहेगी और सिर्फ भारत ही इनकी आपूर्ति करने में सक्षम होगा।



हरदीप पुरी •

पुरी ने बताया कि उनके नए कार्यकाल में घरेलू तेल और गैस का उत्पादन बढ़ाना भी एक बड़ी प्राथमिकता है। सरकार पहले से ही आयातित तेल पर निर्भरता कम करने में जुटी है लेकिन इसमें खास सफलता नहीं मिली है। हालांकि इस साल से केजी बेसिन में स्थित सरकारी कंपनी ओएनजीसी के एक तेल व गैस फील्ड में उत्पादन शुरू होने से बदलाव आने की संभावना है। जनता को कम कीमत पर, पर्याप्त मात्रा में लगातार पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की उपलब्धता कराने पर हमारी सरकार का पूरा जोर होगा।

मुंबई हाई में हिस्सेदारी नहीं बेचेगी ओएनजीसी

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी ओएनजीसी अपने प्रमुख तेल एवं गैस क्षेत्र मुंबई हाई में किसी भी विदेशी कंपनी को कोई इक्विटी हिस्सेदारी नहीं देगी। एक शीर्ष अधिकारी ने यह जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि बीपी पीएलसी जैसे वैश्विक दिग्गजों से सिर्फ



क्षेत्र से घटते उत्पादन को रोकने में मदद मांगी गई है।

अधिकारी ने कहा कि आयल एंड नैचुरल गैस कारपोरेशन (ओएनजीसी) इस तेल क्षेत्र की परिचालक बनी रहेगी और विदेशी कंपनी को बढ़े हुए उत्पादन से राजस्व का हिस्सा और उसके प्रयासों के लिए एक निश्चित शुल्क दिया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि ओएनजीसी तकनीकी समाधान के कार्यान्वयन में सभी पूंजी और परिचालन व्यय वहन करेगी। सभी जोखिम ओएनजीसी उठाएगी, जबकि विदेशी भागीदार को विफलता होने पर भी निश्चित शुल्क मिलेगा।

अधिकारी ने कहा कि मुंबई हाई एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है, जिसे नामांकन के आधार पर ओएनजीसी को दिया गया था और कंपनी के पास किसी भी नामांकित क्षेत्र में हिस्सेदारी बेचने का कोई अधिकार या शक्ति नहीं है।



अजय मोहंली

संगठनात्मक सुधार से ऊर्जा संक्रमण के मिलेंगे परिणाम

केंद्र सरकार में संगठनात्मक स्तर पर सुधार से सरकारी कामकाज अधिक सक्षम एवं प्रभावी ढंग से हो पाएंगे। बता रहे हैं अजय शाह और अक्षय जेटली

संशयवादी भारत में सरकार के भारी भरकम आकार पर लंबे समय से टीका-टिप्पणी करते रहे हैं। उनके अनुसार केंद्र सरकार का आकार 1.5 मंत्रियों एवं रायसीना हिल (राष्ट्रपति भवन सहित महत्त्वपूर्ण मंत्रालयों का ठिकाना) तक सीमित रखा जाना चाहिए। नया मंत्रिमंडल हमेशा केंद्र सरकार की गतिविधियों पर पुनर्विचार करने का एक अवसर देता है। अनियोजित कार्य पद्धति लगातार जारी है और सरकार का हस्तक्षेप अर्थव्यवस्था के उन क्षेत्रों में भी पहुंच गया है जहां इसकी जरूरत नहीं है और कई मामलों में तो इसके दुष्परिणाम सामने आ रहे हैं। जिन क्षेत्रों में सरकार की उपस्थिति अनिवार्य है वहां मौजूदा संगठनात्मक ढांचा प्रायः प्रगति की राह में बाधा साबित हो रहा है।

ऊर्जा क्षेत्र ऐसा ही एक उदाहरण है। अधिक विभाग होने से उनके बीच तालमेल नहीं बैठ पाता है। कोयला

मंत्रालय अधिक कोयला उत्पादन का लक्ष्य लेकर चलता है तो नवीकरणीय (अक्षय) ऊर्जा मंत्रालय कोयले पर निर्भरता कम करना चाहता है। दूसरी तरफ, बिजली निरंतर बिजली उत्पादन बढ़ाने का प्रयास करता रहता है। पर्यावरण मंत्रालय जलवायु परिवर्तन से जुड़े विषयों पर सोचता है मगर ऊर्जा मंत्रालयों उसके प्रभाव के जद में नहीं आता है। यह पूरी प्रक्रिया नीतियों में तारतम्यता की राह में बाधा बनती है। कार्यपालिका के विभिन्न कदम एक दूसरे के विपरीत जान पड़ते हैं। नीतियों एवं प्रयासों के बीच आपसी तालमेल का अभाव देश के भीतर (राज्य सरकारी के साथ संबंधों के संदर्भ में) और बाहर (दूसरे देशों के साथ संबंधों में), दोनों जगहों पर केंद्र सरकार के प्रदर्शन को प्रभावित करता है। दूसरे क्षेत्रों की तुलना में ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के लिए बाहरी दुनिया के साथ तालमेल खासा मायने रखता है।

नीतिगत योजना और राष्ट्रीय हित में

तालमेल नहीं होने से आर्थिक कुशलता का लक्ष्य हासिल नहीं हो पाता है। ऊर्जा संक्रमण (जीवाश्म ऊर्जा पर निर्भरता कम कर धीरे-धीरे अक्षय ऊर्जा अपनाने की तरफ बढ़ना) कोई अनूठी समस्या नहीं है और यहां भी विभागों एवं मंत्रालयों की संरचना दोषपूर्ण है। भारत में नीतिगत स्तर पर अफसरशाही की शिथिलता एक तार्किक संगठनात्मक ढांचे को कमजोर कर देती है। परिवहन क्षेत्र में भी ऐसी ही समस्या पाई जाती है। वित्त मंत्रालय में विभागों की संरचना भी दोषपूर्ण मानी जा सकती है। विजय केलकर की अध्यक्षता में 'अ मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ फाइनेंस फॉर द 21 सेंचुरी' शीर्षक नाम से एक रिपोर्ट आई है। इस रिपोर्ट के अनुसार शताब्दी के पहले 24 वर्षों में वित्त मंत्रालय में काफी कम सुधार हुए हैं।

मौजूदा व्यवस्था किस तरह काम करता है? ऊर्जा संक्रमण जिन मंत्रालयों या विभागों से जुड़ा है उनमें कोयला,

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, नवीन एवं नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस, बिजली, परमाणु ऊर्जा, भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय में इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन विभाग और आर्थिक मामलों का विभाग आदि शामिल हैं। ज्यादातर लोग इस बात पर सहमत होंगे कि यह एक अच्छी व्यवस्था नहीं है।

अब प्रश्न है कि इसे बेहतर कैसे बनाया जा सकता है? पांच ऐसे कार्य हैं जो इस दिशा में किए जा सकते हैं। पहली बात, हमें सबसे पहले विभागों की सूची पर पुनर्विचार करना होगा। क्या हमें कोयला मंत्रालय और एक परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग की आवश्यकता है? उदाहरण के लिए केवल दो विभाग हो सकते हैं, एक कार्बन आधारित ईंधन और दूसरा कार्बन मुक्त ईंधन।

दूसरी बात, ऊर्जा के साथ जुड़े सभी खंडों को एकल ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में समाहित किया जा सकता है। इस मंत्रालय की संरचना विदेश मंत्रालय जैसी हो सकती है जिसमें विभिन्न विभागों का नेतृत्व सचिव स्तर के अधिकारी कर सकते हैं। ये इनके ऊपर एक ऊर्जा सचिव होंगे और ये सभी ऊर्जा मंत्रियों के अधीन काम करेंगे। मगर यह संरचना समस्या का पूर्ण समाधान नहीं कर पाता है। इसका कारण यह है कि विभाग सरकार तंत्र की आधारभूत इकाई होते हैं और इस संरचना के अंतर्गत कोयला विभाग भी होगा जो कार्बन उत्सर्जन बढ़ाने का प्रयास कर रहा है। एक मंत्रालय में दो विभागों को समाहित करने के कई उदाहरण हैं। किसी विभाग को एक मंत्रालय से निकालकर दूसरे मंत्रालय में ले जाने के कई उदाहरण मौजूद हैं, इसलिए ऐसे बदलाव संभव एवं लाभकारी प्रतीत हो रहे हैं। ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में भारी उद्योग का विलय करना तर्कसंगत लग रहा है। मगर आर्थिक मामलों के विभाग (डीईए) का ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में विलय उपयुक्त नहीं होगा। कार्य आवंटन नियमों में बदलाव पर नए सिरे से विचार और बदलाव करने की जरूरत है ताकि ऊर्जा संक्रमण से जुड़ी समस्याएं ठीक ढंग से परिलक्षित हो सकें।

कई मंत्रियों के बीच समन्वय में सुधार के लिए जलवायु परिवर्तन से जुड़े विषयों के लिए एक मंत्रिसमूह की गुंजाइश बनती है। इसमें संबंधित आठ या इससे कम मंत्रों एक साथ काम कर सकते हैं। यह इस मायने में अच्छा समाधान है कि मंत्रिसमूह के पास संस्थागत अनुभव एवं अफसरशाही क्षमता होती है। हालांकि, यह भी सच है कि पूर्व में ऐसे समूह पूरी तरह संतुष्ट करने वाले साबित नहीं हुए। इसका एक प्रमुख कारण यह है कि इस समूह को समर्थन देने वाला

कोई तकनीकी सचिवालय नहीं है।

फिलहाल जो व्यवस्था है उसके अंतर्गत मंत्री अपना प्रभाव जताने के लिए एक दूसरे प्रतिस्पर्द्धा कर रहे हैं। मौजूदा ऊर्जा विभागों के हितों पर वित्त मंत्री अध्यक्षता में इन मंत्रिसमूह के माध्यम आंशिक रूप से की जा सकती है। पूर्व में तकनीकी सचिवालय नहीं होने के कारण मंत्री समूह असफल रहे थे।

चौथी बात, सरकार के तीन परंपरागत अंगों के बीच भारत में सरकारी तंत्र या संगठन की एक नई संकल्पना सामने आई है। यह संकल्पना नियामकों की है जो कार्यकारी, विधायी और न्यायिक शक्तियों के माध्यम से काफी प्रभावशाली साबित हो रहे हैं। ऊर्जा संक्रमण को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए संगठन संरचना में बदलाव के लिए इन नियामकों पर भी विचार करना चाहिए।

पांचवीं बात, कार्यपालिका के ढांचे के साथ विधायिका में भी सरकार कार्य क्षमता से जुड़ी समस्या मौजूद है। संसदीय स्थायी समितियों के स्तर पर विखराव की समस्या ऊर्जा संक्रमण पर एकीकृत संसदीय स्थायी समिति गठित कर दूर की जा सकती है। इसमें आठ विभागों में सात की स्थायी समितियों को समाहित कर दूर की जा सकती है। इस संसदीय समिति के लिए शोध समूहों का एक समूह तैयार करने से भी मदद मिलेगी।

दिलचस्प बात यह है कि दूसरे देशों में भी जहां पहले से मौजूद ऐसी समस्या नहीं थी वहां जलवायु परिवर्तन से जुड़ी कठिनाइयों को देखते हुए नई सरकारी ढांचा स्थापित किया गया है। जर्मनी में इकॉनॉमिक अफेयर्स एंड क्लाइमेट एवशन (बीएमडब्ल्यूके) ऊर्जा संक्रमण नीतियों पर नजर रखता है।

फ्रांस में मिनिस्ट्री फॉर द इंकोर्पोरेटिड ट्रांजिशन जलवायु परिवर्तन पर ध्यान केंद्रित करता है। स्पेन में इंकोर्पोरेटिड ट्रांजिशन एंड डेमोग्राफिक चैलेंज एक अलग मंत्रालय है। उरुग्वे में ऊर्जा संक्रमण उद्योग, ऊर्जा एवं खनन मंत्रालय के अधीन आता है। इंडोनेशिया में ऊर्जा संक्रमण ऊर्जा एवं खनन मंत्रालय के माध्यम से होता है। अमेरिका में जॉन पोडेस्टा 'क्लाइमेट जार' हैं जो एक अनूठी भूमिका निभा रहे हैं। मगर भारतीय संवैधानिक संरचना में यह समाधान सरल नहीं दिख रहा है जहां सरकारी तंत्र मंत्रिमंडल, कैबिनेट मंत्रियों और विभागों के माध्यम से चल रहा है।

(शाह एक्सकेडीआर फोरम में शोधकर्ता और जेटली ट्रायलीगल में पार्टनर एवं ट्रस्टब्रिज के संस्थापक हैं।)

हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय का कार्यभार संभाला



वैभव न्यूज़ ■ नई दिल्ली

पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने मंगलवार को दूसरी बार मंत्रालय का कार्यभार संभाला। इस मौके पर उन्होंने कहा कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) एक नई तेल रिफ़ाइनरी बनाने पर विचार कर रही है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नेतृत्व वाली सरकार के तीसरे कार्यकाल में अपनी प्राथमिकताओं का जिक्र करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि भारत की आयात

निर्भरता को कम करने के लिए अधिक तेल और गैस की खोज और उत्पादन पर जोर दिया जाएगा। इसके अलावा सरकार की शीर्ष प्राथमिकताओं में हरित हाइड्रोजन, प्राकृतिक गैस और रिफ़ाइनिंग तथा पेट्रोसायन शामिल हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार ने हाल के वर्षों में नागरिकों के लिए ऊर्जा की उपलब्धता, किफायत और स्थिरता सुनिश्चित की है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत ने रूस सहित आपूर्ति के अपने स्रोतों में विविधता लाने का काम किया है।