

Monthly Summary of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the month of October, 2020.

1. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 14th October, 2020 has approved the Modification of 'ADNOC Model' for enhancing commercial viability of the existing Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) of Indian Strategic petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL).

2. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas participated in:

i. The 4th India Energy Forum which was inaugurated virtually by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 26th October 2020. Prime Minister on the first day of the event interacted with CEOs/Experts and Leaders of World's leading Oil and Gas companies and exchanged ideas on the energy sector in India. Prime Minister highlighted that at the core of the Government policy is providing equitable access of clean, affordable and sustainable energy to all Indians. He also underlined that the Government is taking a series of policy reforms to make India an attractive destination and also mentioned that a self-reliant India will also be a force multiplier for the global economy.

ii. At the inaugural session, Minister, PNG focused on India's energy agenda being inclusive, market based and climate sensitive, he also stressed on Government of India's concerted efforts and taking all necessary steps to make energy sector fuel India's economic growth during and post-Covid period. Around 40 global CEOs of oil and gas companies, as well as Indian CEOs from public and private companies participated in the event and presented their views, suggestions and investments in the country.

iii. Minister, PNG invited global CEOs to explore greater engagement in India's energy transition and also become partners in India's exciting growth story. He also thanked the participants of the event especially H.R.H. Prince Abdulaziz, Ministry of Energy of Saudi Arabia and H.E. Dan Brouillette, US Secretary of Energy for their special inaugural messages in the India Energy Forum.

3. On 27th October, 2020, on the sidelines of India Energy Forum by IHS CERAWEEK, Hon'ble Minister, MoP&NG Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched the book 'The New Map', authored by Dr. Daniel Yergin, noted authority on energy and vice chairman, IHS Markit. During the launch, both held a candid conversation on India's position in a demand-centric oil market, energy planning in the post-Covid19 world, India's 'Multi-pathed' energy transition and new energy paradigms for a low carbon future.

4. Minister, Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Kuwait on 11-12 October 2020, as an emissary of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, to offer condolences on behalf of Government and people of India on the demise of the Late Amir HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of Kuwait. During the visit, Minister, PNG also had a meeting with his counterpart Dr. Khaled Ali Al-Fadhel, Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water, who is also the Chairman of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and discussed about the bilateral hydrocarbon relations between the two countries.

5. The first ever India-Russia webinar on the use of natural gas as motor fuel was organized under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation on 01st October 2020. The Indian side was led by Shri Tarun Kapoor, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The webinar included two Technical sessions on LNG as Transport Fuel and CNG as Transport Fuel, wherein perspectives from Indian and Russian sides were presented and saw the attendance of dignitaries, speakers and participants from both India & Russia.

6. On 09th October, 2020, an interactive webinar with Russian oil and gas companies was organized under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to highlight India as the most favoured E&P investment destination.

7. The India- Saudi Arabia working group meeting on Energy was held on 19th October 2020. The Indian side comprised of delegation from MoPNG, Ministry of Power and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), MoPNG. Both sides discussed to enhance the collaboration in Energy sector as well as the investment opportunity in India's energy sector.

8. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas notified 'Policy for Natural Gas Marketing Reforms' on 15th October, 2020. The objective of the policy is to prescribe standard procedure to discover market price of gas to be sold in the market by gas producers, through a transparent and competitive process, permit affiliates to participate in bidding process for sale of gas and allow marketing freedom to certain Field Development Plans (FDPs) where Production Sharing Contracts already provide pricing freedom. The policy aims to provide standard procedure for sale of natural gas in a transparent and competitive manner to discover market price by issuing guidelines for sale by contractor through e-bidding. This is expected to bring uniformity in the bidding process across the various contractual regimes and policies to avoid ambiguity and contribute towards ease of doing business.

9. Government has approved award of 11 Blocks under OALP Bid Round-V and also extension of timelines for performance of contractual obligations for Contractors in Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) and Revenue Sharing Contracts (RSC) regimes for a period of one year from 25.03.2020 to 28.02.2021, including the force majeure time, already granted by DGH for the period of National Lockdown on account of the situation which emerged due to Covid-19 pandemic.

10. Under "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package" (PMGKP), as part of the Economic response to COVID-19, free of cost LPG cylinders to PMUY beneficiaries for upto three free LPG refills for the next 3 months w.e.f 01.04.2020 are being provided. The Cabinet in its meeting dated 15.04.2020 approved the proposal. The scheme has since been extended upto 31st December, 2020 for consumers who were credited with the advance but could not book cylinders till 30th September 2020. The number of LPG cylinders delivered under PMGKP scheme as on 3rd November, 2020 are 1408.83 lakhs.

11. In the month of October, 2020 more than 8.62 lakh new LPG connections were issued and total number of connections released in the current financial year are nearly 52.5 lakhs as

on 02.11.2020. As on 02.11.2020, 26.89 crore LPG customers are availing subsidy under PAHAL Scheme and nearly 10 lakh customers have joined this scheme in the month of October, 2020. As on 31.10.2020, more than 1.08 crore customers have given up LPG subsidy under "Give it Up" initiative.

12. The number of Letter of Intents (Lols) issued and distributorships commissioned in the month of October, 2020 are 26 and 80, respectively. Total number of Lols issued and distributorships commissioned from 1st April to 2nd November, 2020 are 83 and 236, respectively.

13. Domestic crude oil production for the month of October, 2020 was 2572 TMT as against production target of 2763 TMT, showing an achievement of 93.09%. Natural gas production for the month of October, 2020 was 2414 MMSCM as against production target of 2957 MMSCM, showing an achievement of 81.64%.

14. During October, 2020, the price of the Indian Basket of Crude oil varied between \$ 37.01 and \$ 42.17 per barrel and the average price was \$ 40.66 per barrel as compared to average price of \$ 41.35 per barrel in September, 2020.

15. As per the Refinery Gate Price effective from 1st October, 2020, OMCs are expected to incur NIL under recovery/DBTL during October, 2020 on sale of PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG respectively. The expected under recoveries/subsidy for the FY 2020-21 in respect of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG (Under DBTL) is NIL and Rs. 4,690 crore respectively. There is no subsidy to the consumers on subsidized domestic LPG effective from 1st October, 2020 and NIL under recovery on PDS Kerosene effective from 1st March, 2020.

16. Tender for Ethanol Supply Year 2019-20 was floated by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). OMCs have allocated 208.35 crore litre against the offers received. Supplies have commenced and OMCs have received 154.85 crore litre till 26.10.2020. The rate for ethanol procured by the OMCs for ESY-2020-21 have been approved by CCEA in its meeting held on 29.10.2020 and have been communicated to OMCs for taking further necessary action.

17. OMCs have procured 0.48 crore litres of Bio-Diesel during April 2020 – Sep 2020 for blending with High Speed Diesel. OMCs have floated Expression Of Interest (EOI) for procurement of Biodiesel produced from Used Cooking Oil across 200 locations in the country. Total of 10 EOIs have been opened till now. OMCs have received 37 offers for setting up 60 Biodiesel Plants with a production capacity of 1147 MT/day.

18. Total 23,555 Retail Outlets have been solarized as on 31.10.2020.
