

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

1. Hon'ble Minister, PNG delivered the keynote address at the 7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum on 3rd December 2020, shared views on finding new market principles & mechanisms, including delinking LNG markets from oil markets, addressing rigidities in LNG marketing structures for expanding the global demand for LNG. He also stressed on developing greater synergies between natural gas producing and consuming nations to seize the opportunities presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and to promote greater use of natural gas for a decarbonised and sustainable world.

2. Hon'ble Minister, PNG had a telecommunication with H.E. SaadSherida Al-Kaabi, Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs and President & CEO Qatar Petroleum on 11th December, 2020, he had a discussion on promoting Qatari investments in the entire energy value chain in India. It was a follow-up to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi's discussion with Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad Al-Thani on 8th Dec.

Minister Al-Kaabi had agreed to set up a Task Force on Energy, represented by VP of Qatar Petroleum and a senior officer from Petroleum Ministry to identify specific projects in India's energy sector for Qatari investments. Minister reiterated Qatar's role as a reliable supplier of LNG and LPG. We also agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the energy sector and move beyond the buyer-seller relationship to a comprehensive one, including two-way investments.

3. Hon'ble Minister, PNG complimented Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and Indian Oil for winning the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for the Swachhata Hi Seva 2019 movement for their intensive efforts in raising awareness on various aspects of cleanliness, including waste management and reducing single-use plastics on 14th December, 2020. He also congratulated Hindustan Petroleum Corporation limited for getting special recognition for their emphasis on sanitation and hygiene, especially during the challenging times of the #Covid19 pandemic.

4. Secretary, PNG chaired a meeting on 30th December, 2020 with Permanent Secretary from Guyana also joined by Technical Experts. Discussion was on the various possibilities of engagements between both the countries in Energy Sector and also proposal to sign an MoU on Cooperation in Hydrocarbons Sector.

5. Joint Secretary, International Cooperation chaired the first meeting of India-Qatar Task Force on Energy through VC on 23 December, 2020. The meeting was co-joined by Dr. Deepak Mittal, Indian Ambassador to Qatar, and the Qatari side by Mr. Jassim Al-Marzouqi, Vice President for Commercial & Business Development at Qatar Petroleum (QP).

6. 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 which was further extended upto 31st December, 2020. The number of LPG cylinders delivered under PMGKP scheme as on 31st December, 2020 is 1417 lakhs.

7. In the month of December, 2020 more than 4.64 lakh new LPG connections were issued and total number of connections released in the current financial year are nearly 63.58 lakhs as on 21.12.2020. As on 28.12.2020, 27.01 crore LPG customers are availing

subsidy under PAHAL Scheme and nearly 6 lakh customers have joined this scheme in the month of December, 2020. Till date, more than 1.08 crore customers have given up LPG subsidy under "Give it Up" initiative.

8. The number of Letter of Intents (Lols) issued and distributorships commissioned in the month of December, 2020 are more than 14 and 35, respectively. Total number of Lols issued and distributorships commissioned from 1st April to 21st December, 2020 is 101 and 287, respectively.

9. Domestic crude oil production for the month of December, 2020 was 2562 TMT as against production target of 2762 TMT, showing an achievement of 92.76%. Natural gas production for the month of December, 2020 was 2426 MMSCM as against production target of 3170 MMSCM, showing an achievement of 76.53%.

10. During December, 2020, the price of the Indian Basket of Crude oil varied between \$ 47.29 and \$ 51.46 per barrel and the average price was \$ 49.84 per barrel as compared to average price of \$ 43.34 per barrel in November, 2020.

11. As per the Refinery Gate Price effective from 1st December, 2020, OMCs are expected to incur under recovery/DBTL subsidy amounting to NIL and Rs. 66 crore on sale of PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG respectively during the month of December, 2020. The expected under recoveries/subsidy for the FY 2020-21 in respect of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG (Under DBTL) is NIL and Rs. 3,480 crore respectively. There is no subsidy to the consumers on subsidized domestic LPG effective from 1st December, 2020 and NIL under recovery on PDS Kerosene effective from 1st March, 2020.

12. The average All India ethanol blending percentage for Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2019-20 ending on 30.11.2020 was maintained at 5% despite the disruptions due to Covid 19. The total ethanol receipts during the year were 173.03 crore litre. Tender for Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2020-21 was floated by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for 458 crore litre and in the first round Letter of Intents for 262.27 crore litre have been released. Further, offers for 67.42 crore litre have been received in the second round out of which the process of allocation of 47.53 crore litre is in progress.

13. During the period April, 2020 to Nov, 2020, OMCs have procured 0.49 crore litres of biodiesel for blending with diesel. OMCs have floated fresh tender for procurement of biodiesel. Bids received against the same are under evaluation at present. OMCs have floated Expression of Interest (Eoi) for procurement of Biodiesel produced from UCO across 200 locations in the country. A total of eleven Eois have been floated by the OMCs for this starting from 10.8.2019 till 09.11.2020. OMCs have received offers for setting up 65 Biodiesel Plants with a production capacity of 1303 MT/day (Approx 48 cr. Litres/annum).

14. As on 31.12.2020, total 24,120 Retail Outlets have been solarized.
