

Oil and gas producers seek govt support to cushion impact of crude price crash

TWESH MISHRA

New Delhi, April 24

Faced with steep decline in oil prices, which makes oil and gas exploration and production an unviable business, domestic oil and gas producers are seeking government support to mitigate the impact.

“The government should focus on giving domestic oil and gas producers some relief by waiving off levies on production. The taxes imposed by the State and Centre go up to 50

per cent of the total sale price of domestically produced crude oil. When coupled with profit petroleum, these levies end up being even higher,” said P Elango, Managing Director of Hindustan Oil Exploration Company.

“The correct approach is to keep domestic oil and gas prices linked to the international market. Domestic producers that can survive at the present prices will be able to gain substantially when there

is a recovery,” he said.

The domestic oil industry is also seeking a share of the funds accrued from the Oil Industry Development Board cess collections.

While large oil sector players have their demands in place, newer and smaller exploration companies have formed a separate forum for themselves. The newly formed Association of Discovered Small Field Operators is firming up its list of demands from the government.

Oil heads for 3rd straight weekly slide

New York: Oil prices rose on Friday, but both the Brent and US benchmarks were on track for their third straight week of losses as global production shutdowns failed to keep pace with the collapse in demand caused by the pandemic.

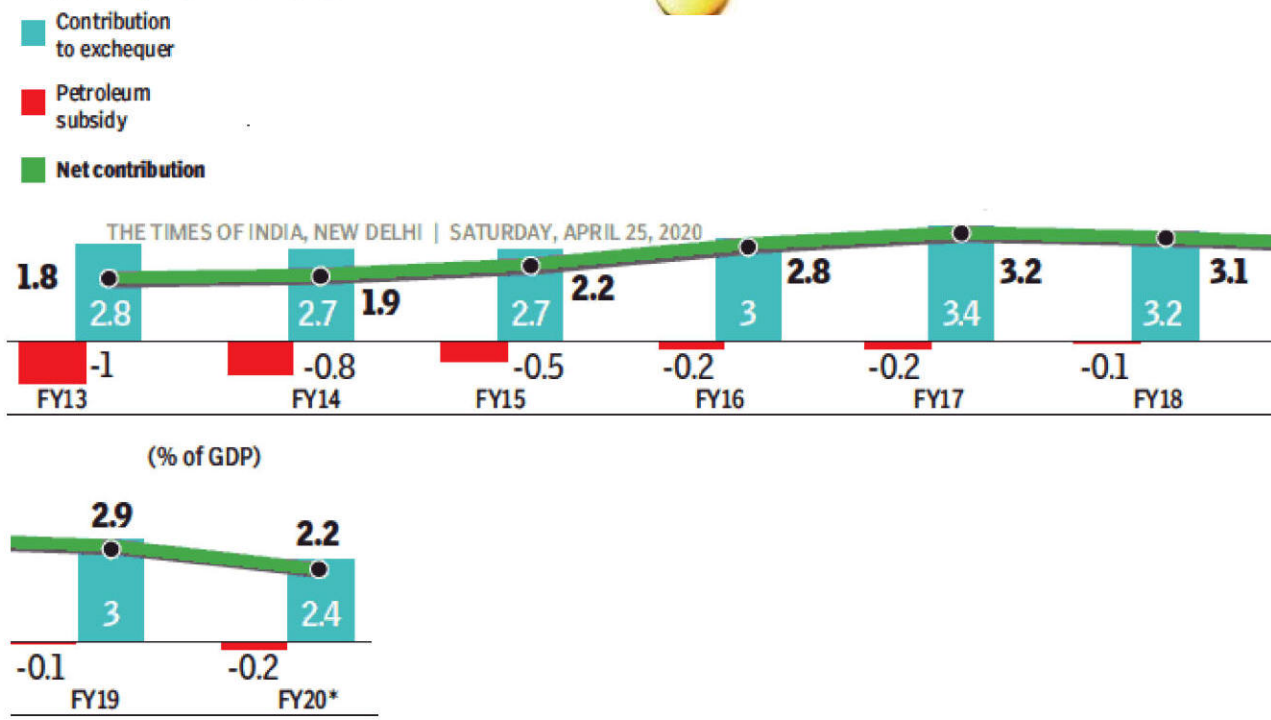
The oil market has experienced unprecedented turbulence since US prices fell into negative territory on Monday for the first time ever and Brent sank to two-decade lows. Investors have sold oil aggressively since early March, in response to a 30% collapse in demand due to the pandemic. This week's declines will mark the eighth week of losses out of the last nine weeks. Brent is on track for a 24% weekly drop and WTI is set for a fall of around 7%.

Brent futures rose 0.8%, to \$21.5 a barrel in early trade, while the WTI increased 3.5%, to \$17.06. Storage is quickly filling worldwide, which could necessitate more cuts in production, even after Opec and its allies agreed to cut output this month. REUTERS

Increased Oil Sector Revenues To Help Contain Fiscal Slippages

The government collected 2.9% of GDP as net revenue from the petroleum sector in FY19. It is estimated that the government could gain increased revenues to the tune of ₹43,000cr (0.2% of GDP) from this move. The policymakers may use the additional revenues collected from the oil sector to contain the fiscal slippages

Source: UBS, *H1 of FY20 is annualised



Reshuffle likely in key departments

More than seven Secretaries are scheduled to superannuate this month

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

The Union government is expected to appoint secretaries in key departments and effect a reshuffle in the Central administration as more than seven secretaries are scheduled to superannuate this month.

Among those schedule to retire include Health Secretary Preeti Sudan and Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty, both in key positions in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic that has massively hit the economy.

It remains to be seen whether the PMO grants extension to both officials considering the pandemic. "There is some possibility of extension to see continuity in both crucial posts," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

Other secretaries scheduled for superannuation include Shipping Secretary Gopal Krishna, Women and Child Development Secretary Rabindra Panwar and Petroleum Secretary M.M. Kutty. The Secretary, MSME



Health Secretary Preeti Sudan, left, and Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty are also scheduled to retire.



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Sanjeevane Kutty, Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare, is also set to retire from the service.

According to government sources, reshuffle in the administration with key appointments is likely over the weekend.

Key PMO post

There are also several important vacancies in the administration. The most important vacancy is that of a Secretary in the PMO.

Insiders said Additional Secretary in the PMO, A.K.

Sharma, a long-time trusted aide of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, may be made Secretary since he has recently been empanelled to hold the post of Secretary in the Central government. Mr. Sharma is a 1988-batch Gujarat-cadre IAS officer.

Another senior IAS officer in the PMO, Tarun Bajaj, a 1988-batch Haryana-cadre officer, has been empanelled along with Mr. Sharma. Whether he will be continued in the PMO or moved out as a full-fledged Secretary in the administration remains to be seen.

Another important vacan-

cy is in the Ministry of HRD as Secretary, School Education and Literacy. Currently, the post is being held by Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare.

As per the buzz, Anita Karwal, Chairperson of CBSE, is most likely to be new Secretary, School Education and Literacy. She was also recently empanelled to hold the post of Secretary in the Central government. She is a 1988-batch Gujarat-cadre officer.

Recently, the Department of Personnel and training (DoPT) empanelled 28 senior IAS officers belonging to the 1987 and 1988 batches to hold the post of Secretary or equivalent.

The Centre picks up the officials from the State cadre or those serving in the Central government on deputation after the empanelment.

Accordingly, several officials who were recently empanelled will likely be made full-fledged Secretary in the various departments in the government set-up.

SINGAPORE

TROUBLE DEEPENS FOR SINGAPORE OIL TRADER HIN LEONG

Beleaguered Hin Leong Trading, which filed for bankruptcy last week amid allegations of financial trickery, is facing the aftermath of its own actions. Hours after Sembcorp Industries terminated its decade-old gas oil supply and storage agreement with Hin Leong, news emerged on Thursday that the company may consider appointing a judicial management to tide over the crisis. Hin Leong, one of Asia's largest independent oil traders, is on the verge of defaulting on debt repayments worth \$3.85 billion just as investigators launch a probe against its billionaire founder Lim On Kuin for allegedly hiding \$800 million in losses.

MRPL sponsors 50,000 kg rice

MANGALURU, DHNS: Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) through its CSR fund and through district administration has sponsored 50,000 kg of rice for the needy citizens facing hardships due to the lockdown.

Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat (DKZP) has identified a list of the needy families, affected severely due to Covid-19 lockdown.

These families belong to five hoblis of the district namely Mangaluru-B, Gurupura, Surathkal, Mulki and Moodbidri.

The MRPL had sponsored a grocery kit comprising boiled rice, tur dal, rava, sugar and tea powder to these needy families in these hoblis.

ONGC has distributed Dry Ration to lockdown affected people in Kolkata

Amidst the nationwide lockdown due to the Covid-19 outbreak, Maharatna PSU ONGC has kick started an extensive CSR programme in Kolkata to reach out to the sections of society that have been worst affected by the pandemic. As an immediate measure, initially 250 families in 8 wards of Tangra Urban Health District (UHD) are being provided dry ration packets containing rice, dal, salt, mustard oil, etc. Detailed plans are being worked out to scale up the efforts to reach out to many more families across a wider geographical spread.

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■ Oil Prices Head for Steep Weekly Slide

LONDON Oil prices rose on Friday but headed for their third weekly loss as production shutdowns failed to keep pace with sliding demand due to the coronavirus crisis. Brent crude was up 58 cents, or 2.72%, at \$21.91 at 1215 GMT, having risen 5% on Thursday, and U.S. oil rose 51 cents, or 3.09%, to \$17.01 a barrel.

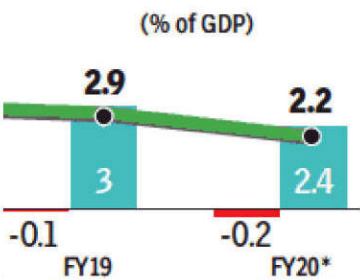
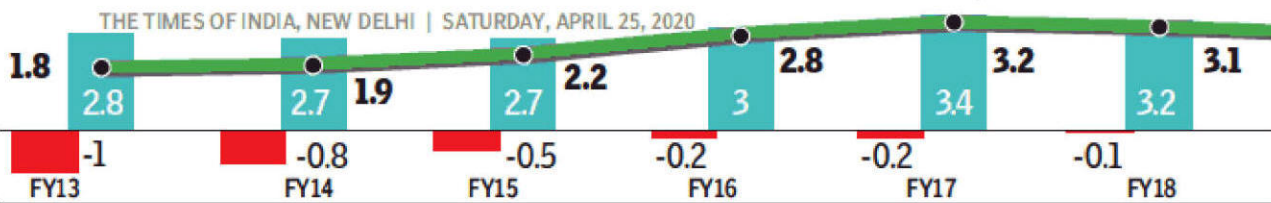
Increased Oil Sector Revenues To Help Contain Fiscal Slippages

The government collected 2.9% of GDP as net revenue from the petroleum sector in FY19. It is estimated that the government could gain increased revenues to the tune of ₹43,000cr (0.2% of GDP) from this move. The policymakers may use the additional revenues collected from the oil sector to contain the fiscal slippages

Source: UBS, *H1 of FY20 is annualised



- Contribution to exchequer
- Petroleum subsidy
- Net contribution



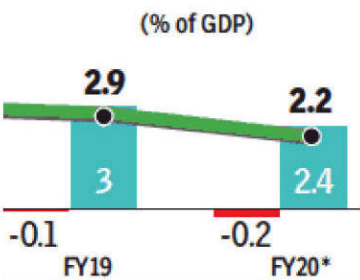
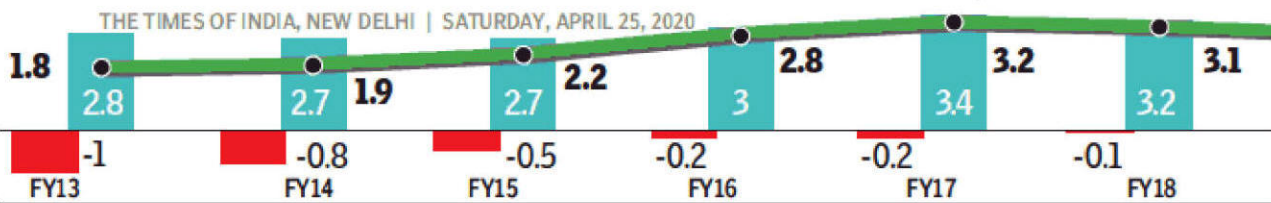
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30 तक मुफ्त सिलेंडर नहीं लिया तो अगले महीने खाते में नहीं आएगी राशि

अलवर | प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के लाभार्थियों ने 30 अप्रैल तक गैस सिलेंडर रिफिल नहीं कराए तो अगले महीने (मई में) मुफ्त गैस सिलेंडर लेने के लिए राशि बैंक खाते में नहीं आएगी। कोरोना वायरस की महामारी में जिले में उज्ज्वला योजना के 3.10 लाख में से मात्र 1 लाख 9 हजार लाभार्थियों ने ही अब तक मुफ्त सिलेंडर का लाभ लिया है। केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से अप्रैल, मई व जून में उज्ज्वला योजना के लाभार्थियों को मुफ्त गैस सिलेंडर की रिफिल कराई जाएगी। अप्रैल में पहले गैस सिलेंडर की रिफिल के

लिए सरकार की ओर से लाभार्थियों के खाते में ₹750 राशि पहले सप्ताह में ही हस्तांतरित कर दी गई, लेकिन अभी तक मात्र 35.16% लोग ही सिलेंडर रिफिल करा पाए हैं। अगर 6 दिनों में बैंक खातों में आई राशि से सिलेंडर रिफिल नहीं कराए तो जून में राशि खाते में ट्रांसफर नहीं की जाएगी। अगर ये लाभार्थी अप्रैल में नहीं ले पाए और मई में सिलेंडर लिया तो एक महीने की राशि लैप्स हो जाएगी और फिर जून में राशि खाते में आ जाएगी। यानी दो महीने का ही फायदा होगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि उज्ज्वला योजना के जिले

में आईओसीएल के 1.20 लाख, बीपीसीएल के 73 हजार और एचपीसीएल के 1.17 लाख लाभार्थी उपभोक्ता हैं।

घर से बुक कराएं, डिलीवरी मैन पहुंचाएंगे सिलेंडर : आप घर से सिलेंडर बुक कराएं। सिलेंडर 24 घंटे में घर पहुंच जाएगा। ये काम डिलीवरी मैन कर रहे हैं। उपभोक्ता आईवीआरएस व एसएमएस नंबर 9785224365, वॉट्सएप नंबर 7588888824, इंडियन ऑयल वन मोबाइल एप या <https://cx.indianoil.in> या पेट्रीएम से घर बैठे रसोई गैस की बुकिंग कर

सकते हैं। आपात्कालीन नं. 1906 चालू है।

■ उज्ज्वला योजना के लाभार्थी अभी 6 दिन में मुफ्त सिलेंडर का लाभ उठा सकते हैं। अगर वे इस महीने सिलेंडर की रिफिल नहीं कराएंगे तो अगले महीने की मुफ्त सिलेंडर की राशि उनके खातों में नहीं आएगी। ये राशि सिर्फ उन लाभार्थियों के खातों में ही ट्रांसफर की जाएगी, जो बैंक खाते में प्राप्त राशि से उसी महीने में गैस सिलेंडर रिफिल कराएंगे।

- रविन्द्र मीणा, जिला नोडल अधिकारी

उज्ज्वला योजना