

Shell expects Tapti fields' decommissioning in 2 yrs

GIREESH BABU

Chennai, 8 December

The Tapti fields under the Panna, Mukta and Tapti (PMT) joint venture is estimated to be decommissioned in two years, and is now at a stage where the loopholes are being plugged, said Nitin Prasad, chairman, Shell Companies in India. The company is ahead of its target to have over 1,000 retail outlets in the country by 2027, he added.

Speaking to reporters in the sidelines of the launch of a flat-pack all-terrain truck, The Ox, in India, he said, "Tapti is now dry and is facing decommissioning. Last week, we signed an agreement that resolved all the final issues. We now have India's first offshore decommissioning of Tapti fields and we will begin that work. We have already been doing the first couple of plugging wells and other works. We have already transferred some of the assets over to ONGC, but now we will begin the real decommissioning works."

The company has spent a lot of time to bring in the best global standards as it has experience in executing decommissioning in the North Sea, Mexico and other parts of the world. The company has worked with its partners and the government to identify a way and approach to do this with the best standards.

The PMT joint venture, comprising Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Reliance Industries Limited and BG Exploration and Production India Limited — which is part of Shell now — is located off the shore to the south of the Gulf of Khambhat on the Arabian Sea coast of India. It is under a production-sharing contract (PSC) with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, government of India.

The Tapti fields went into a phase of decline after 2008 and cessation of production



The Tapti fields went into a phase of decline after 2008 and cessation of production was finally declared in March 2016

was finally declared in March 2016, according to a report by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

In 2017, the company started preparing to decommission the Tapti fields. A total of 38 wells, five platforms and four pipelines have to be closed in order to decommission the facility.

Panna and Mukta fields produce seven per cent of India's oil and gas production. The fields are at a latter phase of their life cycle and could be better run by a new operator, Prasad suggested.

"The type of technologies and ways in which you choose to run the field change in its lifetime. There are better people to run the late phase of the fields than us. That is why we came back and made a decision against extending the PSC," he added. Once the PSC ends the unincorporated joint venture will end and the assets will be handed over to the next operator.

The company had last year announced plans to open more than 1,000 outlets in India in 10 years. Its count

is around 150 outlets now. The company is in talks with various state governments to set up outlets faster.

Commenting on the newly launched The Ox, Prasad said it is an energy-efficient affordable solution for last-mile connectivity in India. The vehicle will have a high level of localised parts, which would make it easier for manufacturing, maintenance and repair. The company is in talks with original equipment manufacturers for various models of partnership to bring the vehicle commercially. The aim is also to use the all-terrain vehicle in accessing distant places during natural disasters.

The Ox truck is a global partnership between Shell and Gordon Murray Design and the Global Vehicle Trust. The product launched in India was the its fourth generation version, in which Shell has invested. Prasad refused to share investment figures.

The 3.5-tonne truck can carry a weight of two tonne, which could be beneficial in rural areas, he said.

Why no reissue of CNG cab permits, asks EPCA

Ritam.Halder@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) will write to the Delhi transport department on not reissuing permits to CNG taxis after five years.

In an EPCA meeting on Friday, its members said the Delhi government was destroying a Supreme Court order by misinterpreting it. "Why are CNG cars being phased out in five years like diesel? Need an official response from the transport department," EPCA member Sunita Narain said.

In May 2016, the Supreme Court had ordered a gradual phase-out of diesel taxis from the national capital region (NCR) and said they could ope-



LET DELHI BREATHE

PLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE
www.letourcitybreathe.com

rate until the expiry of their permits. New licences should not be given for diesel taxis in NCR and those with all-India tourist permits (AITP) may operate till their permits expire, the court had said.

While diesel taxis are not allowed in NCR, the Supreme Court had allowed diesel cabs running on AITPs with the existing fleet converted to AITP-O (old) and having only a limited life, while the new AITP taxis being registered as AITP-N (new), which can be registered on petrol, CNG, dual fuel and on diesel only with an affidavit stating that these will not offer point-to-point services in NCR.

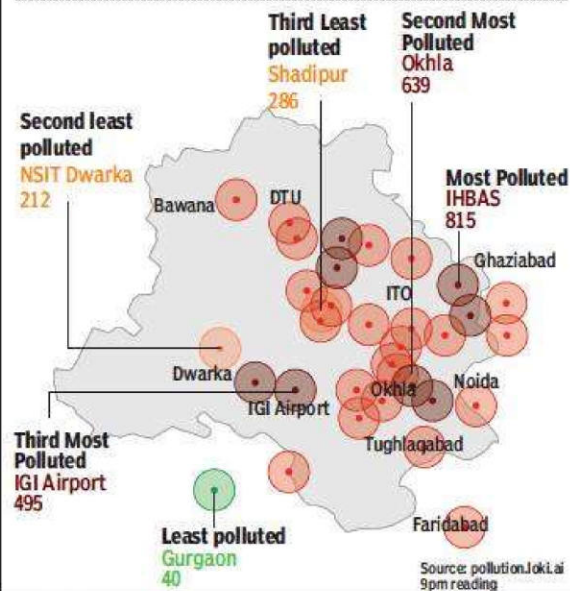
"We are receiving complaints from AITP operators that the Delhi transport department is not renewing CNG permits, too, after five years. In no way has the court said that CNG AITP taxis will not be renewed. If the transport department doesn't accept it, we will take it to court and sort it out," Narain said at the meeting called to discuss possible actions against diesel vehicles plying in NCR, starting with commercial ones.

A transport department

HOW NCR HOTSPOTS FARED

Of the 34 stations that monitor air quality in NCR, 8 were in the severe zone, 23 very poor, 2 poor and 1 was in the good zone. This data is for 9pm and figures will vary widely from overall AQI mentioned elsewhere

- Good (<50)
- Satisfactory (50-100)
- Moderate (100-200)
- Poor (200-300)
- Very Poor (300-400)
- Severe (>400)



PHILIPS

Air Purifier

Removes 99.97%* air pollutants in just 6 minutes*

Range starts from ₹ 12,995/-

*Removes 99.97% particles upto the size of 0.003 microns.
*6 minutes is valid for ACS658 for a standard room size of 220 sq. ft.



Delhi vs Other Cities

3pm reading

| DELHI | MUMBAI | KOLKATA | HYDERABAD | AHMEDABAD |
|-------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 348 | 220 | 341 | 182 | 183 |

official submitted that there were around 11,088 AITP-O and 4,137 AITP-N diesel vehicles registered in Delhi. The number of CNG-run vehicles will be submitted in the next meeting.

Two weeks ago, EPCA had said that it may impound violating vehicles as well. "No diesel-based taxis will have the align-

ing point or boarding point in NCR. If any are found to be operating without them being disclosed, they will straight away be impounded and their licences be cancelled. According to our estimate, almost 70,000 diesel-based taxis are still operating in NCR, which is a big number," said EPCA chairman Bhure Lal had said.

EPCA tightens noose on industries, pushes for PNG

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEWDELHI: The Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) issued an ultimatum to industries in Delhi-NCR to shift to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and stop using polluting fuels or face closure.

Announcing the push, the SC-appointed body pointed towards a recent report by Safar, a pollution forecasting agency under the Union government, which claimed that industrial emissions in Delhi have shot up by 48% between 2010 and 2018.

In a meeting held with some NCR-based industrial associations on Friday, EPCA said that “ease of breathing” cannot be compromised for “ease of business.”

“We would be pushing for PNG as we can’t see any other option to clean up the industrial sector. We would also urge the government to bring PNG under GST and bring down the tax components. This would bring down the price of gas by at least 20% and make it more economical for industries,” said Sunita Narain, member of EPCA.

The SC-appointed body said it would also call a meeting with the industrial associations of Delhi

**‘EASE OF BREATHING’
CAN’T BE COMPROMISED
FOR ‘EASE OF BUSINESS’,
SC-APPOINTED PANEL
TELLS INDUSTRIAL
ASSOCIATIONS**

and the gas supplying companies to resolve issues raised by industries such as high price of gas. Industrial associations from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have claimed that high cost of PNG is preventing them from shifting to the gas.

A senior Delhi government official said that out of the 2,000-odd industries operating from the city’s industrial zones, at least 1,150 have shifted to PNG, while application of 229 are under process. Nearly 412 industries have been asked to close down.

“Some polluting industries have either shifted to residential areas or have moved out of Delhi and are now operating from NCR towns. This is illegal. The SC-appointed body on sealing has sealed at least 140 such industrial units operating illegally from residential areas in the last week,” said EPCA chairman Bhure Lal.

EPCA members were informed by pollution control boards that under the provision

of “ease of doing business” officials are not allowed to enter the industries. Many industries still use tar oil and coal after switching off their monitoring system at night, so government is unable to monitor the emission levels.

The representatives of industries blamed vehicles for causing greater pollution to which thoracic surgeon Arvind Kumar, also an EPCA member, said if the consequences of pollution were known, this “whole discussion will pale into insignificance”.

**EPCA CHAIRMAN FINDS
VIOLATIONS AT MUNDKA
AND TIKRI**

Industrial associations of Mundka have assured Bhure Lal, chairman of EPCA that they won’t openly dump or burn rubber and plastic waste that trigger pollution. Lal said there was rampant violations of norms at Mundka industrial area and PVC scrap market in Tikri. “Industrial associations have assured us that they will store the waste rubber and plastic in their own backyards and send them to waste to energy plants. The North Delhi Municipal Corporation would help the industries to tie up with energy plant,” Lal said. Lal is scheduled to visit other areas like Narela, Bawana and Anand Vihar next week.

Oil PSUs to add 4,500 petrol pumps across Gujarat

Vadodara (Guj): Public sector oil companies Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum have an ambitious plan to open nearly 4,500 fuel outlets across Gujarat, an official said on Saturday.

Talking to reporters here, Indian Oil chief regional manager Sunil Vikram Singh said, "To meet the increasing requirements of customers on highways, agricultural sector products and industries, it was observed necessary to open such fuel outlets in the state."

"IOCL, BPCL and HPCL have an ambitious plan to open nearly 4,500 fuel outlets in the state," he said.

About 3 to 4 fuel outlets will be opened near the Statue of Unity, dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the world's tallest statue, at Kevadiya in neighbouring Narmada district, he added.

More than three lakh visitors have already visited the site. Therefore, opening of three to four fuel outlets will help the tourists, the official said.

The OMCs (oil marketing companies) plan to expand in

tier II and III cities as well as rural areas, interior areas and remote areas as they lack presence in these geographies.

The Indian Oil will set up 128 retail outlets, with Bharat Petroleum 50 and Hindustan Petroleum 49 in Vadodara district of Gujarat.

"All these OMCs are set to expand their fuel retail network after a gap of nearly four years, which is due to eight per cent annual growth in sale of petrol and four per cent in diesel," Vikram Singh said.

The OMCs have formally announced their plans and bidding process for inviting tenders has also started, he said, adding that each fuel outlet will cost between ₹60 lakh to ₹3 crore depending on their location.

"The OMCs for the first time have come together to work on such a scale to avoid duplication and eating into each other's business," he added.

Retail outlets opened after 2014 were largely through the revival of old stations or restoration of dealerships that had been terminated because of non-performance since 2005. **PTI**

Oil PSUs to add 4,500 petrol pumps across Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vadodara (Gujarat), 8 December

Public sector oil companies Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum have an ambitious plan to open nearly 4,500 fuel outlets across Gujarat, an official said on Saturday.

Talking to reporters, Indian Oil Chief Regional Manager Sunil Vikram Singh said, "To meet the increasing requirements of customers on highways, agricultural sector products and industries, it was necessary to open fuel outlets in the state."

"IOCL, BPCL and HPCL have an ambitious plan to open nearly 4,500 fuel outlets in the state," he said.

About three-four outlets will be opened near the Statue of Unity, he added.

More than three lakh visitors have already visited the site. Therefore, opening of three to four fuel outlets will help the tourists, the official said.

The oil marketing companies (OMCs) plan to expand in tier-II and tier-III cities, and rural areas as they lack presence in these geographies.

IOCL will set up 128 retail outlets, with BPCL 50 and Hindustan Petroleum 49 outlets in Vadodara.

"All these OMCs are set to expand their fuel retail network after a gap of nearly four years, which is due to an 8 per cent annual growth in sale of

petrol and 4 per cent in diesel," Vikram Singh added.

The OMCs have formally announced their plans and the bidding process for inviting tenders has also started, he said, adding each fuel outlet will cost between ₹6 million to ₹30 million, depending on their location.

"The OMCs, for the first time, have come together to work on such a scale to avoid duplication and eating into each other's business," he added. Retail outlets opened after 2014 were largely through the revival of old stations or restoration of dealerships that had been terminated because of non-performance since 2005.



कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन घटाने का ऐलान

■ वियना (वार्ता) ।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में पिछले कुछ समय में आई भारी गिरावट को देखते हुए तेल निर्यातक देशों के प्रमुख संगठन ओपेक ने जनवरी से उत्पादन में कटौती का फैसला किया है।

ओपेक ने शुक्रवार को समाप्त दो दिवसीय मंत्री स्तरीय बैठक के बाद जारी बयान में बताया कि जनवरी 2019 से कच्चे तेल का दैनिक उत्पादन 12 लाख बैरल घटाया जाएगा। आरंभ में यह फैसला छह महीने के लिए लागू होगा तथा अगले साल अप्रैल में होने वाली बैठक में इसकी समीक्षा की जाएगी। इस फैसले से भारत में पिछले दो महीने से पेट्रोल-डीजल, रसोई गैस तथा विमान ईंधन की कीमतों में उपभोक्ताओं को मिल रही राहत अब थम

ओपेक के फैसले से बढ़ सकते हैं कच्चे तेल के दाम

देश में भी महंगे हो सकते हैं पेट्रोल, डीजल और गैस

जनवरी से उत्पादन में होगी 12 लाख बैरल दैनिक कटौती

छह महीने तक लागू रहेगा उत्पादन में कटौती का फैसला

सकती है तथा एक बार फिर इन पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के दाम बढ़ सकते हैं।

वयान में कहा गया है कि बाजार के मौजूदा परिदृश्य पर विचार-विमर्श और वर्ष 2019 में वैश्विक स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की मांग एवं आपूर्ति में बढ़ते अंतर को देखते हुए

कुल उत्पादन में जनवरी 2019 से 12 लाख बैरल प्रति दिन की कटौती का फैसला किया गया है। आरंभ में यह छह महीने के लिए होगा। उत्पादन में प्रस्तावित 12 लाख बैरल रोजाना की कटौती में से ओपेक देशों का योगदान आठ लाख बैरल का होगा जबकि स्वेच्छा से इसमें शामिल होने वाले देश अपना उत्पादन चार लाख बैरल घटाएंगे। स्वेच्छा से शामिल होने वाले देशों में रूस सर्वप्रमुख है।

इस फैसले को न्यायोचित तरीके से लागू कराने की जिम्मेदारी मंत्रियों की संयुक्त निगरानी समिति को दी गई है। समिति का काम यह देखना होगा कि ओपेक के भीतर तथा संगठन का सहयोग कर रहे देशों के बीच न्यायोचित तरीके से उत्पादन में कटौती के भार का बंटवारा हो तथा सभी देश इसका पालन करें। समिति इस पर अपनी रिपोर्ट भी देगी।



तेल कंपनियां गुजरात में 4,500 नए पेट्रोल पंप खोलेंगी

वडोदरा (गुजरात), 8 दिसंबर (भाषा)।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियां इंडियन ऑयल, भारत पेट्रोलियम और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम की गुजरात में 4,500 नए पेट्रोल पंप खोलने की योजना है।

इंडियन ऑयल के मुख्य क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधक सुनील विक्रम सिंह ने संवाददाताओं को यह जानकारी दी। राजमार्गों, कृषि क्षेत्र उत्पादों और उद्योगों में ग्राहकों की बढ़ती संख्या की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए राज्य में नए पेट्रोल पंप खोले जाने की जरूरत को समझा गया। उन्होंने बताया कि आइओसीएल, बीपीसीएल और एचपीसीएल की राज्य में करीब 4,500 पेट्रोल पंप खोलने की

महत्वाकांक्षी योजना है। अधिकारी ने बताया कि पड़ोसी नर्मदा जिले में सरदार बल्लभ भाई पटेल को समर्पित दुनिया की सबसे ऊंची प्रतिमा 'स्टैच्यू ऑफ यूनिटी' के पास तीन से चार पेट्रोल पंप लगाए जाएंगे।

अधिकारी के अनुसार तीन लाख से अधिक पर्यटक अब तक इस स्थान का दौरा कर चुके हैं। ऐसे में तीन से चार पेट्रोल पंप खोले जाने से पर्यटकों को सुविधा होगी। तेल विपणन कंपनियों की देशभर में दूसरी और तीसरी श्रेणी के शहरों में अपने पेट्रोल पंप स्टेशन का नेटवर्क बढ़ाने की योजना है। इसके लिए कंपनियां देशभर में 60 हजार से अधिक पेट्रोल पंप खोलेंगी।