



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(2024-25)**

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2024-25)**

FIRST REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2024 / Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2024-25)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 12.12.2024

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 13.12.2024



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2024 / Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(2024-25)

Sl. No. Names of Members

LOK SABHA

Shri Sunil Dattatrey Tatkare - Chairperson

2	Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla
3	Shri Benny Behanan
4	Shri Maddila Gurumoorthy
5	Shri Dileshwar Kamait
6	Shri Putta Mahesh Kumar
7	Shri Vinod Lakhamshi Chavda
8	Smt. Joba Majhi
9	Smt. Pratima Mondal
10	Shri Laxmikant Pappu Nishad
11	Shri Jai Prakash
12	Shri Dilip Saikia
13	Smt. Kamaljeet Sehrawat
14	Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal
15	Dr. Amar Singh
16	Shri Vivek Thakur
17	Shri Ve Vaithilingam
18	Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
19	Shri Parbhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava
20	Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy
21	Shri Dharmendra Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

22	Shri Chunnilal Garasiya
23	Shri Narain Dass Gupta
24	Shri Chandrakant Handore
25	Shri Manoj Kumar Jha
26	Shri Mithlesh Kumar
27	Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha
28	Shri Mayankbhai Jaydevbhai Nayak
29	Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar
30	Dr. V. Sivadasan
31	Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju

SECRETARIAT

1	Shri Rajesh Ranjan Kumar	Joint Secretary
2	Shri Brajesh Kumar Singh	Deputy Secretary
3	Shri Gurpreet Singh	Committee Officer

(iv)

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas having been authorised by the Committee, to submit the Report on their behalf, present this First Report on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas'.

2. The Committee examined the Demands for Grants (2024-25) pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas which were laid on the Table of the House on 01.08.2024.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas at their sitting held on 17.10.2024. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 09.12.2024.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for furnishing the material and information in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry and for giving evidence before the Committee.

5. The Committee also place on record their appreciation for the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

New Delhi;
11 December, 2024
20 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

Sunil Dattatrey Tatkare,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Petroleum & Natural Gas

REPORT

PART I

Introductory

Energy is the mainstay of today's industrial societies characterized by mass production of goods and services, large scale transportation and distribution of goods, urbanization, high mobility, etc. It is also important for India as the country has been fast moving on the path of socio-economic development. Currently, India is a fast growing economy of the world which entails high growth in energy consumption. India's crude oil consumption has been increasing rapidly in recent years. The International Energy Agency Projects that India will become the largest source of global oil demand growth upto 2030. Some factors driving the growth include: urbanization, industrialization, growth of middle class and efforts to achieve greater access to clean cooking. In the last decade, the country registered about 4 per cent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in consumption of petroleum products.

1.2 In 2023, India's total energy consumption was about 39.02 Exajoule. The oil and gas contribute about 33 per cent of the primary energy mix of the country. Despite consumption of about 5 per cent of world crude oil production, the per capita energy consumption of India is only 27.3 Gigajoule. It is about a third of the world average and half the Asian average. Accordingly, the high GDP and population growth combined with low per capita energy consumption are likely to lead high demand growth of petroleum products in the country in future. The Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of petroleum products upto 2030 is projected to be 3.7 per cent.

1.3 Presently, India is the third largest consumer of crude oil in the world. It is also the fourth largest refiner in the world and fast becoming a regional refining hub. However, the country is heavily dependent on import of crude oil and natural gas. The import dependency of crude oil and natural gas are 87.7 per cent and 47 per cent respectively.

1.4 Oil and Gas Sector is also an important industrial sector in the country. It is one of the 8 core sectors of the economy. The share of oil and gas sector in the GDP of India is about 15 per cent out of which about 10.75 per cent is contributed by major oil and gas companies of the country. The Oil and Gas Sector also contributes significantly to the revenues of the Central and State Governments. It contributes

about 18 per cent of the revenue receipts of the central government and about 8 per cent of the revenue receipts of state governments.

1.5 Considering the high demand growth of energy in India and high dependency of the country on imports of crude oil and natural gas, Government of India has recognized energy access, energy efficiency, energy sustainability and energy security as four pillars of energy future of the country. These four pillars are crucial for India as it marches ahead in its ambition to become an economic powerhouse in the world. The transformation of our energy system towards a more reliable, eco-friendly, and cost-effective one is a central goal of today's energy policy.

1.6 The Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to improve energy security and fulfill the increasing demand of oil and gas which comprises increasing domestic production of oil and gas, promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures, giving thrust on demand substitution, promoting bio-fuels and other alternate fuels/renewable, EV charging facilities and refinery process improvements.

A Mandate of the Ministry

1.7 Exploration and exploitation of petroleum resources, including natural gas and Coal Bed Methane, gas hydrates and shale gas and Production, supply, distribution, marketing and pricing of petroleum, including natural gas, Coal Bed Methane and petroleum products are major mandates of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The detailed mandate of the Ministry given in the Government of India (Allocation of business) Rules, 1961 is enclosed at **Annexure – I** of this Report.

1.8 The above mandate of the Ministry is carried out through following divisions:-

- i. Exploration Division
- ii. Refinery Division
- iii. Marketing Division
- iv. Gas Projects Division
- v. International Cooperation Division
- vi. Economic & Statistics Division
- vii. General Coordination and Administrative Division

1.9 When the Committee asked the Ministry about the inclusion of any new item to the mandate of the Ministry during the last three years, the Ministry *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 has stated as under:

“There is no change in the Allocation of Business of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas”.

1.10 As regards enlarging of mandate of the Ministry, the Committee in their Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) (**Report No. 18 of 17th Lok Sabha**) had made following recommendation pertaining to Transfer of Petrochemicals division from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas:-

“The Committee note that the Petrochemicals Industry is one of the fastest growing industries in India with demand increasing at a CAGR of more than 8% in the last five years. The Committee further note that the Petrochemicals market in India is dominated by basic Petrochemicals (about 45%) in which upstream and downstream petroleum companies of the country has a large presence. Recently, ONGC commissioned largest Petrochemical plant of the country i.e ONGC Petro increases ltd. plant at Bharuch, Gujarat. IOCL is also executing several Petrochemical projects to increase its present Petrochemical Industry Index (PTI) of about 5% to 15% by 2030. The Oil PSU Refineries under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has considerable budget in their IEBR every year under the head ‘Petrochemicals’. The Committee also note that the department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals was transferred from the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on 5 June, 1991. In this regard, the Committee observe that the Petrochemicals industry of the country has tremendously expanded since then and presently on the course of becoming a major Petrochemicals hub of the world. The OMCs of the country have also become large, diversified and integrated. Here, the Committee feel that transfer of Petrochemicals division from the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas will benefit both the petroleum & petrochemicals sectors through better policy formulation and implementation and also utilizing the synergies between two sectors. As the Refineries need various sanctions, approvals, clearances, etc, it will be better if the departments are under the same Ministry. The Committee recommend to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to examine the expediency of transfer of petrochemicals divisions from the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers to Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and in case the same is found beneficial to take up the issue with the Cabinet Secretariat for amendment of Allocation of Business Rules of the Government of India”.

1.11 In this regard, when the Committee enquired about decision taken by the Government on the above issue, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in oral evidence during sitting of the Committee held on 17.10.2024 stated as under:-

“the transfer of petrochemicals to this Department, this has been discussed earlier in this Committee itself. And even in the last Committee, it was discussed and we had said at that time that there are multiple stakeholders involved in this. All of them have their views. This is not a decision to be taken by the Ministry of Petroleum alone”.

B Budget Allocations and Expenditure

1.12 The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas furnished following data pertaining to BE, RE and actual expenditure for the years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and BE of 2024-25 budget:-

Statement showing year-wise BE/RE and actual expenditure for the year 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 and BE 2024-25

(In crore)											
SI. No	Name of Scheme/Item	BE 2021-22	RE 2021-22	Actual 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actual 2022-23	BE 2023-24	RE 2023-24	Actual 2023-24	BE 2024-25
1	Secretariat - Economic Services	45.41	47.15	36.86	49.16	49.16	46.07	51.90	50.00	44.59	61.29
2	DBT for LPG	12480.00	3400.00	177.06	4000.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	1460.00	1460.00	1500
3	Other subsidy payable including NE Region (Domestic Natural Gas)	450.00	391.00	391.00	811.00	811.00	811.00	1633.02	1633.00	1633.00	1200
4	Project Management Expenditure	65.00	65.00	241.65	64.00	32.00	32.00	52.00	84.00	84.00	0.01
5	DBT for Kerosene	0.00	0.00	1.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
6	Feedstock Subsidy to BPCL/Assam Gas Cracker Complex	1078.35	1042.92	1042.92	137.50	137.50	131.00	392.06	563.00	563.00	131
7	Scheme for LPG Connection to Poor Households (PMUY)	0.00	1618.00	1568.44	800.00	8010.00	5663.37	0.01	8500.00	8500.00	9094
8	Payment to Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (O&M)	186.34	163.54	129.49	210.58	178.87	123.27	202.81	190.56	152.93	220.04
9	Gas Authority of India-Phulpur Dhamra Haldia Pipeline Project	250.00	499.71	589.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0

10	Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL) - Part of the North East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid	500.00	850.00	850.00	1798.27	1798.27	1528.50	1800.00	1300.00	1043.38	1000
11	Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojna	233.31	189.38	151.50	314.36	83.34	37.88	227.26	151.99	75.75	117.41
12	National Bio-Fuel Fund	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
13	Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board	23.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
14	Society for Petroleum Laboratory	2.84	2.84	1.69	2.88	1.66	0.22	1.24	0.62	0.00	0.01
15	Setting up of Indian Institute of Petroleum Energy (IPE) Vishakhapatnam	95.00	95.00	23.75	150.00	100.00	29.25	168.00	90.00	90.00	168
16	Establishment of Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum and Technology (RGIPT), Assam	32.00	32.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
17	Establishment of Centre of Excellence for Energy, Bangalore	50.00	50.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
18	One time grant to PSU OMCs for under recoveries in Domestic LPG	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22000.00	22000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Payment of Differential Royalty to State Governments	24.00	0.93	0.88	1.11	1.11	1.11	0.00	20.31	20.31	0.01
20	Numaligarh Refinery Expansion Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	245.00	245.00	500.00	475.50	475.50	275
21	Scheme for flagging of merchant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	215.62	84.04	290.44	130.00	87.75	387.26

	ships										
22	Global Biofuel Alliance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	60.00	0.01
23	Scheme for providing financial support for collection of biomass	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	150
24	Development of pipeline infrastructure for injection of Compressed Bio Gas in City Gas Distribution Network	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	497.25
	TOTAL REVENUE SECTION	15516.78	8448.47	5406.32	8339.86	33843.54	30912.71	5498.74	14716.98	14290.21	14801.29

Sl. No	Name of Scheme/Item	BE 2021-22	RE 2021-22	Actual 2021-22	BE 2022-23	RE 2022-23	Actual 2022-23	BE 2023-24	RE 2023-24	Actual 2023-24	BE 2024-25
	CAPITAL SECTION										
1	Secretariat - Economic Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00	0.95
2	Payment to Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5000.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
3	Payment to ISPRL for construction of caverns Phase-II	210.00	210.00	210.00	600.00	40.01	0.00	508.00	40.00	0.00	408.00
4	Payment to ISPRL for purchase of land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	40.00	0.01
5	National Seismic Programme	217.00	187.66	137.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Capital support to OMC					0.00	0.00	30000.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
7	Mission Anveshan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	332.00
8	Appraisal of areas of India's Extended	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	388.00

	Continental Shelf										
	TOTAL CAPITAL SECTION	427.00	397.66	347.31	600.00	40.01	0.00	35508.98	40.03	40.00	1128.97
	TOTAL REVENUE + CAPITAL	15943.78	8846.13	5753.63	8939.86	33883.55	30912.71	41007.72	14757.01	14330.21	15930.26

C New announcements for Petroleum Sector in Budget 2023-24

1.13 When the Committee asked the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas about new announcements pertaining to the Ministry in the Budget 2024-25, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 has informed as under:-

“The following new announcements have been made in the Interim Budget Estimate of 2024-25 in respect of MoP&NG:

(i) Towards meeting our commitment for 'net zero' by 2070, the following measures will be taken:

(a) Phased mandatory blending of compressed biogas (CBG) in compressed natural gas (CNG) for transport and piped natural gas (PNG) for domestic purposes will be mandated.

(b) Financial assistance will be provided for procurement of biomass aggregation machinery to support collection”.

D Analysis of Budgets of the Ministry

1.14 The Committee examined the Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure of the Ministry of the last three financial years and observed *wide* variance in the same. In FY 2021-22, the BE of the Ministry was Rs. 15943.78 crore which was reduced to Rs. 8846.13 crore in RE. The Actual Expenditure in the year happened to be only Rs. 5753.63 crore. Similarly, in FY 2022-23, the BE of the Ministry was Rs. 8939.86 crore which was increased to Rs. 33883.55 crore in RE. The Actual Expenditure in the year was Rs. 30912.71 crore. In FY 2023-24, the BE of the Ministry was Rs. 41007.72 crore which was reduced to Rs. 14757.01 crore in RE. The Actual Expenditure in the year was Rs. 14330.21 crore.

1.15 When the Committee asked the Ministry about the wide variation in BE, RE and Actual Expenditure of the Ministry in previous financial years, the representatives of the

Ministry furnished following explanation during its oral evidence before the Committee on 17.10.2024:-

"Sir, there is some difference between our budget estimate and revised estimate because the ground situation changes a lot. For example, We had kept an estimate of Rs 5,000 crore so that we can buy crude oil for our crude reserves, strategic reserves. If the price of crude oil increases so much in the market, then it may not be very wise to buy crude oil at that time. We should buy crude oil when crude oil prices are low. There is no point in spending extravagantly. We keep this budget, but we keep looking at it throughout the year that if there is an opportunity when the prices are low, we can buy at that time, then we will keep this figure in the budget year after year. When we get a chance, we will buy it. We don't want to waste money on it".

E Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY)

1.16 PMUY was launched on 1st May, 2016 with an initial target of providing 5 crore deposit free LPG connections to an adult woman of household identified from the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data, to ensure women empowerment, especially in rural India. Subsequently, the identification criteria were expanded and the beneficiaries were identified from seven identified deprivation criteria in addition to SECC data. Under the scheme, a financial assistance of Rs. 1600 per connection was given. A total of 8 crore LPG connections were given under the scheme.

1.17 After successful completion of Ujjawalal Yojana, Ujjawala 2.0 was launched on 10th August, 2021 on PAN India basis to provide additional one crore LPG connections along with free first refill and stove. Special provision has been made for migrant families to avail new connection as migrants can now apply using self-declaration as proof of address and family declaration under Ujjawala 2.0. The scheme has been extended from time to time with revised targets and as of October, 2024, OMCs have about 10.33 crore LPG connections under PMUY.

1.18 A provision of Rs. 9,094/- crore has been made in BE 2024-25 for implementing PMUY Scheme. When the Committee asked the Ministry about the manner in which the earmarked funds shall be utilized by OMCs for implementing the Scheme, the Ministry in its written reply dated 04.10.2024 stated as under:-

"The head of the account for PMUY covers expenditures for both Free LPG Connections to poor households and targeted subsidies to PMUY households. Government of India started the targeted subsidy of Rs 200/cylinder to PMUY consumers w.e.f 22nd May 2022. The government increased the targeted subsidy by Rs 100 per 14.2 kg Domestic LPG refill taken by PMUY beneficiaries with effect from 5th October 2023, taking the subsidy to Rs 300/ per 14.2 Kg refill. Further, Scheme for grant for LPG connection to Women under PMUY (extension) has been approved by Government for additional 75 lakh LPG

connection over three years from 2023-24 till 2025-26 at Rs. 2200 per 14.2Kg single bottle connection (SBC), 2200 per 5 Kg double bottle connection (DBC) and Rs. 1300 per 5 Kg SBC

During 2024-25, a provision of Rs 9094 Cr made during BE stage is being utilized to pay bills submitted by OMCs for both these schemes. As the bills are on actual basis and may be higher/lower than BE allocations, appropriate additionally if required would be sought at RE stage”.

1.19 When the Committee desired to know the state-wise details of connections released to households under PMUY during the financial year 2023-24, the Ministry in its written reply dated 04.10.2024 stated as under:

“Initially the scheme was to provide 5 crore LPG connections over a period of 3 years, which was later extended to 8 crore connections upto 2019-20. The scheme was further extended in May 2021 to cover 1 crore additional connections. Again, the scheme was extended to cover 60 lakh additional connections in January 2022. The scheme got further extension to cover additional 75 lakh connections in September 2023 over a period of 3 years during 2023-24 to 2025-26. As of August 2024 a total of 10.33 Cr PMUY connections exist in the country. The state-wise details of connections under PMUY scheme are given at **Annexure-II**”.

1.20 During the examination of the subject, the Committee came across following findings of the Comprehensive Annual Modular (CAM) Survey 2022-23 conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MOSPI) :-

- “(a) 63% households in India use clean fuel including LPG or Natural Gas.
- (b) 49.3% rural households in India use clean fuel including LPG or Natural Gas.
- (c) In several States, including Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan, M.P and Meghalaya, in rural areas percentage of households using clean fuel for cooking is less than 30%.
- (d) Use of clean fuel for cooking in several states including Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, M.P, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, West Bengal is below 50%.

1.21 Thereafter, When the Committee asked the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas about action being taken by the Ministry in response to the above CAM Survey, the Ministry vide written reply dated 13.11.2024 stated as under:-

“It has been gathered that the Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS), 2022- 23 of the NSS 79th round was conducted during July, 2022 - June, 2023. For the central sample, the survey was spread over 15,298 first-stage units i.e. villages in rural areas and urban blocks in urban areas (8,758 in rural areas and 6,540 in urban areas) covering 3,02,086 households (1,73,096 in rural areas and 1,28,990 in urban areas).

In this survey, primary source of energy for cooking was defined as the source of energy which the household used majority of the time for cooking. A household is categorised as using clean fuel for cooking, if the household reported the use of any one of the primary sources, viz. (i) LPG/ other natural gas, (ii) gobar gas/

other biogas, (iii) electricity (incl. generated by solar /wind power generators), (iv) solar cooker for cooking.

Key Focus of the Survey-

It is important to note that the survey does not measure access to clean cooking fuel but rather its use as the primary source for cooking.

Regional Variations in Clean Cooking Fuel Adoption-

The survey highlights that several states, including Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, and Bihar, have less than 50% of households with cooking arrangements using clean cooking fuel as their primary source. This significantly lowers the overall percentage for India.

Many of these states continue to have low LPG coverage, primarily due to lack of awareness or the widespread availability of traditional cooking methods like wood and other non-clean fuels. However, it is important to acknowledge that, when compared to their previous levels, these states have shown tremendous growth in LPG adoption. Increase in LPG Coverage since 2016 to 2024-

State	As on 01.04.2016	As on 01.04.2024*
RAJASTHAN	62.90%	112.90%
BIHAR	31.50%	89.30%
JHARKHAND	27.90%	81.90%
MEGHALAYA	22.00%	65.90%
ODISHA	31.80%	87.10%
TRIPURA	45.10%	82.10%
WEST BENGAL	51.50%	113.30%
CHATTISGARH	31.00%	85.20%
MADHYA PRADESH	41.40%	91.30%

* Based on estimated Households numbers

Further, as a result of steps taken by the Government consumption of domestic LPG in the country has gone up significantly in these states.

Increase in Total domestic LPG Consumption (TMT)-

State	2015-16	2023-24	Increase in %
RAJASTHAN	934	1500	60.68%
BIHAR	746	1564	109.60%
JHARKHAND	195	385	97.46%
MEGHALAYA	14	28	99.81%
ODISHA	300	622	107.22%
TRIPURA	35	60	72.38%
WEST BENGAL	1141	1920	68.24%
CHATTISGARH	182	316	73.89%
MADHYA PRADESH	710	1122	57.94%

To date, **10.33 crore poor households** have benefited from this scheme. To protect PMUY households from fluctuations in LPG prices, the government has modulated domestic prices and is providing a **₹300 targeted LPG subsidy** to PMUY beneficiaries”.

1.22 The Ministry further provided following data pertaining to distribution of PMUY connections in different regions *vide* written reply dated 13.11.2024:

“Number of connections released by OMCs under PMUY category in Urban/Semi-urban and rural areas is given below based on the category/market of the distributor:

Category	Number of PMUY connections (in crore)
Urban	1.01
Semi-Urban	2.57
Rural	6.75

1.23 When the Committee asked the Ministry in the light of findings of above CAM survey about steps taken by the Ministry to spread awareness among the beneficiaries of PMUY to opt LPG as a cooking fuel, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 13.11.2024 stated as under:

“For spreading awareness among targeted beneficiaries of the Pradhan MantriUjjwalaYojana (PMUY) to adopt LPG as a cooking fuel, several impactful steps have been implemented, including:

1. **Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat (PMLP):**

- Conducted across rural and remote areas to directly engage with beneficiaries, providing information on safe LPG usage, health benefits of LPG over traditional fuels, and ways to access subsidies.
- Focused on interactive sessions where trained representatives address queries, demonstrate LPG usage, and dispel myths about the cost and safety of LPG.

- OMCs have conducted 2.86 crore LPG Panchayat during FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24.
2. **Targeted Media Campaigns:**
- **Out-of-Home (OOH) Publicity:** Hoardings and banners are placed in prominent areas to maximize visibility among the intended audience.
 - **Television Advertisements:** Short, informative advertisements aired on popular TV channels, in regional languages, effectively communicate the safety and convenience benefits of LPG.
 - **Radio Jingles:** These are broadcast on local and regional radio stations, helping reach beneficiaries in areas where TV or internet access may be limited.
3. **Highlighting the benefits during Viksit Bharat SankalpYatra**

A massive public outreach campaign was undertaken during the VBSY where detailed messaging on the ₹300 targeted subsidy for PMUY customers was incorporated across all campaign materials, ensuring beneficiaries are well-informed of the cost-saving advantage provided under PMUY”.

1.24 On being asked whether the number of PMUY beneficiaries is reasonable in view of various economic data viz. data on income, poverty, employment etc; the Ministry in its written reply dated 04.10.2024 submitted the following information:-

“Since the inception of the PMUY, India has witnessed a significant expansion in LPG coverage. The government has consistently extended and adapted the scheme based on evolving needs, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness. LPG connections under PMUY have been provided in alignment with demand and socio-economic indicators, reflecting the broader objectives of enhancing access to clean cooking fuel. The distribution of connections is regularly assessed against available economic data and demographic patterns to ensure that the all eligible families are aware of the benefits under the scheme and receive them”.

1.25 When the Committee asked the Ministry about applications pending under PMUY and details of steps taken to clear applications, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in its written reply dated 04.10.2024 stated as under:-

“As on 01.09.2024, OMCs have 27.86 lakh PMUY applications, pending for release of connection under PMUY Scheme, subject to additional verifications and authentications at the stage of release of connections. PSU OMCs have already met the target of 75 lakh connections under the recent extension”.

1.26 Further, in the oral evidence before the Committee on 17.10.2024, elaborating on the steps taken to clear the pending applications under PMUY, the representative of the Ministry stated as under:-

"We believe that there are still many households that do not have access to LPG. You people are grounded, you must have seen such houses yourself which have remained with such facilities despite all the efforts. We still have 20-25 lakh applications where we have not been able to provide connections and we know

that there will be more. For this, we have put forward a request for budget allocation. If we get the budget for this, we will be able to give these connections very soon, because our execution is done immediately. Documents are sufficient. If we get the budget in it, then we will be able to go ahead and give new connections”.

1.27 The Committee further examined the issue of refill rate of cylinders issued under PMUY. In this regard, when the Committee asked the Ministry about the average refill rate of gas cylinder issued under PMUY during last three financial years, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 stated as under:-

“Per-Capita consumption of PMUY Customers during last three financial years are given below:

FY	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Per Capita Consumption (PCC) (in terms of 14.2 Kg Refills/Annun)	3.68	3.71	3.95

1.28 Elaborating on the refill rate of gas cylinder issued to PMUY beneficiaries, the representative of the Ministry in the oral evidence before the Committee on 17.10.2024 stated as under:-

"As far as the question of PMUY refills is concerned, whether people are taking it or not, I would like to tell that the consumers who take 12 refills are very few in the Ujjwala scheme because apart from PMUY, there are very few who take gas cylinders every month. If we look at the average elite families in the country, then a total of seven or eight cylinders go on an average”.

1.29 Thereafter, when the Committee asked the Ministry as to whether the provision of subsidy to PMUY beneficiaries has resulted in increase of average refill rate, the Ministry in its written reply dated 04.10.2024 submitted the following information:-

“Under PMUY, deposit free LPG connections are provided to adult women from poor households. LPG consumption of PMUY beneficiaries is monitored on regular basis. Consumption of domestic LPG by households depends on several factors like food habits, household size, cooking habits, price, availability of alternate fuels etc. More than 105 crore refills have been taken by PMUY beneficiaries in the last 3 years alone. Further, the Government has taken several steps to encourage consumption of LPG, which include targeted subsidy of ₹ 300/- per 14.2 Kg refill upto 12 refills/year for PMUY beneficiaries, option of 5 Kg Double Bottle Connection (DBC), swap option from 14.2 kg to 5 Kg, upto 3 free refills to PMUY beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package from April 2020 to December 2020 etc. Per capita consumption of PMUY beneficiaries (in terms of no. of 14.2 kg LPG cylinders taken per year) has increased from 3.01 (FY 2019-20) to 3.95 (FY 2023-24)”.

1.30 The Committee also deliberated the issue of effective targeting of subsidies under PMUY. In this regard, when the Committee enquired from the Ministry about the

steps taken to prevent misuse of PMUY, the Ministry in its written reply dated 04.10.2024 stated as under:-

“Various steps have been taken by PSU OMCs to prevent misuse of PMUY Scheme are given below:

a. OMCs undertake de-duplication on various deterministic parameters (Aadhaar number of beneficiary and Family members, AHL TIN of household, Bank Account of the beneficiary as well as on Ration card number to ensure that ineligible/multiple connection holders are kept out of the benefit.

b. Aadhaar biometric authentication is mandatory for the beneficiaries enrolled under PMUY Scheme.

c. Refills per annum have been capped to 15 nos. and per month to 2 nos. for PMUY beneficiaries

d. High Per Capita Consumption (PCC) LPG distributors are being monitored on regular basis by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). Further, suitable actions are being taken by OMCs against distributors as per Market Disciplinary Guidelines (MDG), if required.

e. The subsidy is being provided through DBTL framework, directly into bank account of the consumer. The subsidy has been capped to 12 refills per annum for beneficiaries.

f. Complaints of LPG consumers are being received from various portals i.e. PG portal, Mobile based application, Grievance portal of OMCs and Physically applications etc and the same is being resolved at the earliest and the action is being taken according to MDG guidelines”.

1.31 Thereafter, when the Committee asked the Ministry about number of ghost LPG connections under PMUY identified and cancelled and amount of public money saved due to cancellation of the same, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* reply dated 13.11.2024 informed as under:-

(a)

- “The total consumers blocked in FY 23-24 is 0.07 crore (NPMUY) + 0.01 crore (PMUY) = 0.08 Crore
- The total PMUY consumers blocked in FY 23-24 is 0.01 Crore”.

F PAHAL (DBTL) Scheme

1.32 Effective 1st January, 2015, the 'PAHAL (DBTL) Scheme 2014' has been implemented in the entire country wherein the subsidy on Domestic LPG is being transferred to the eligible consumers directly to their bank accounts.

1.33 A provision of Rs. 1500 crore has been made in BE 2024-25 of the Ministry for PAHAL (DBTL) Scheme. The amount is Rs. 60 crore more than the actual expenditure in FY 2023.-24 which was Rs. 1460/- crore .

1.34 The Committee observed from the pattern of budget estimates and actual expenditures in last three financial years that there have been wild swings in the budget estimates, revised estimates and actual expenditure. In FY 2021-22, the BE was of Rs. 12480 crore. The same was reduced to Rs. 3400 crore in RE. However, the actual expenditure was of only Rs. 177.06 crore. Similarly, in FY 2022-23, the BE was of Rs. 4000 crore. The same was reduced to Rs. 180 crore in RE. The actual expenditure on the scheme in the financial year was Rs. 180 crore. In FY 2023-24, the BE was of Rs. 180 crore. The same was increased to Rs.1460 crore in RE. The actual expenditure on the scheme in the financial year was Rs. 1460 crore. Accordingly, when the Committee desired to know from the Ministry the reasons for wide variations in the amount of budget estimates and actual expenditure for the scheme, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in its written reply dated 04.10.2024 provided the following information:

“The funds allocated for Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG (DBTL) Scheme (Budget Estimates) for 2023-24 were Rs. 180 crore but later revised to Rs. 1460 crore at RE stage. Government reviews its budgetary requirements during the course of year based on emerging situations and expenditure position.

The variation in budget allocation for the scheme is because of the methodology for calculating the Market Determined Price (MDP) of Domestic LPG as per DBTL (PAHAL) Scheme, 2014. As per scheme, ocean freight (on notional basis) is a component for calculating MDP of Domestic LPG which varies every month and is difficult to predict, causing hikes and falls in the allocation of budget.

The details of subsidy on domestic LPG since 2021-22 are given below:

Financial Year	Subsidy^ (Rs. in Crore)
2021-22	1811
2022-23	6965 [@]
2023-24 (P)	11444

[@] In addition, Government paid a one-time compensation of Rs.22000 crore to OMCs for under-recoveries on the sale of domestic LPG.

^ This includes expenditure on connections given under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

The details of Cash Transfer Compliant (CTC) consumers under DBTL as on 01.04.2023 and 01.04.2024 are given below:

CTC customers	(No. in Crore)		
	As on 01.04.22	As on 01.04.23	As on 01.04.24
	28.37	28.96	30.04

The details of budget allocated/utilized for the DBTL (PAHAL) scheme are given below:

(Rs. in Crore)									
2021-2022			2022-2023			2023-2024			2024-2025
BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals	BE
12480	3074	177	4000	180	180	180	1460	1460	1500

G Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves

1.35 To ensure energy security, the Government of India had decided on 07.01.2004 to set up 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of strategic crude oil storages at three locations namely, Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur (Udupi) as well as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to build and operate the strategic crude reserve. These strategic storages would be in addition to the existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies and would serve as a cushion during supply disruptions. The construction and management of strategic crude oil storages is being done by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL), a special purpose vehicle. The ownership of ISPRL was transferred to Oil Industry Development Board and since then it is a wholly owned subsidiary of OIDB. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves project is being implemented in two phases. In the Phase-I, ISPRL completed construction of 5.33 MMT capacity of strategic crude oil reserves at above locations. **Further**, the Union Cabinet accorded approval for establishing additional 6.5 MMT of Strategic Petroleum Reserves at two locations Chandikhol (4 MMT) in Odisha and at Padur (2.5 MMT) in Karnataka on 8th July 2021 along with two dedicated SPMs for Padur and Chandikhol with associated pipelines, under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model under Phase-II.

1.36 ISPRL operates the storage facilities as custodian of core critical sovereign crude oil reserves apart from operating the facilities as custodian of crude oil for any other entity that Government decides. It shall also coordinate the release and replenishment

of strategic crude oil shock during supply disruptions through an empowered committee of Government of India.

1.37 As part of the efforts of the GOI to commercialise the Phase-I of the strategic petroleum reserves, the Union Cabinet on 8th July, 2021 approved the commercialization of ISPRL by allowing ISPRL for leasing/renting of 30 per cent of the overall oil storage capacity of caverns to Indian or Foreign Companies with the condition that in case of any exigency, the GOI will have first right on the entire crude oil stored in the caverns and sale/purchase of crude oil up to 20 per cent quantity of overall oil storage capacity of caverns to Indian companies.

1.38 The budget to ISPRL is provided under different heads of revenue and capital sections. Under Revenue section, the budget is provided for Office and Maintenance (O&M). Under capital section, the budget is provided to ISPRL for filling up of strategic storages, constructions of caverns and related infrastructure and purchase of land.

1.39 In BE 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 220.04 crore has been earmarked for ISPRL under revenue section for Office and Maintenance. There is an increase of 67.11 crore in BE 2024-25 over the actual expenditure of Rs. 152.93 crore incurred in FY 2023-24 which amounts to more than 40 per cent increase in the estimates over actual expenditure in FY 2023-24.

1.40 In BE 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 408 crore has been earmarked for construction of caverns under Phase-II of the project. Further, an amount of Rs. 1 lakh has been earmarked for purchase of land. However, there is no provision for expenditure on filling up of strategic crude reserves in the current budget. In this regard, the Committee observed that Rs. 5000 crore had been earmarked for filling up crude oil reserves in BE 2023-24 which was reduced to Rs. 1 lakh in RE for the year. The Committee also learnt that in November, 2021, India released 5 million barrels of crude oil from its Strategic Petroleum Reserves in consultation and parallelly with other major global energy consumers to cool high oil prices. The provision in the budget had been made to replenish the reserves. However, no actual expenditure was incurred on this account in FY 2023-24. In this regard, when the Committee enquired from the Ministry about non-utilization of funds for the purpose, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 stated as under:

“Rs. 4,999.99 Crores were surrendered in the Scheme viz. Payment to ISPRL for Crude oil Reserves due to deferment of the proposal by DoE, MoF on 14.11.2023”.

1.41 Elaborating on nil expenditure on filling up of underground caverns in FY 2023-24 and their plan for the current financial year, the representative of the Ministry in the oral evidence before the Committee on 17.10.2024 stated as under:-

"There is no provision for ISPRL's crude oil reserves this financial year. We will keep a provision for it in the next financial year, because it was deferred in the last financial year".

1.42 The Committee further enquired from the Ministry about the current status of filling up of strategic crude oil reserves. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 stated as under:

"Current crude stock in all three caverns is 3.6059 MMT as detailed below:

Vizag	: 0.8059MMT
Mangalore	: 0.45 MMT
Padur	: 2.35 MMT
Total	: 3.6059 MMT"

1.43 The Committee then enquired from the Ministry about the long term policy of the Govt. regarding number of days of strategic crude oil reserves, The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 stated as under:-

"Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), has constructed and commissioned 3 no. of SPR in Phase-I with the capacity of 5.33 MMT (Vishakhapatnam 1.33 MMT, Mangalore 1.5 MMT and Padur 2.5 MMT) for 9.5 days of India's crude requirement.

Govt has approved construction of additional capacities (6.5 MMT) at Padur for 2.5 MMT and Chandikhol in Odisha for 4.0 MMT on PPP Mode on 8th July 2021. On completion of Phase II, there will be an additional storage capacity created to cover another 11 days of crude oil requirement".

1.44 Elaborating on the long term policy on Strategic Crude Oil Reserves, the representative of the Ministry in the oral evidence before the Committee on 17.10.2024 stated as under:-

"Sir, as far as petroleum reserve is concerned, we have an SPV called ISPRL, which is inside the OIIB. We have a reserve of 5.3 million metric tons. We store crude oil in cavern caves. We are talking about expanding it. We are talking about moving to Phase-2, which will go up to 6.5 MMT. In this, we have a World Wide General Standard as to how many days of imports we keep in reserve India. 90 Days is considered standard. We have reached around 70-72 with crude oil and our product terminals. We want to go beyond that".

1.45 When the Committee enquired from the Ministry about the current status of Phase-II of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Project, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 stated as under:

“Land acquisition process by respective State Government is under process”.

H Indraprastha Gas Grid Project Limited (IGGL)

1.46 Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL) is a Joint Venture of IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL and NRL. IGGL was incorporated on the 10th of August, 2018, towards implementing the Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for North-East India released by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in 2016. Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 envisages North-East India economic development by leveraging the region's Hydrocarbon potential, enhancing access to clean fuel and accelerating the growth of entire North East India.

1.47 IGGL is implementing North-East Gas Grid (NEGG) Project. The natural gas pipeline grid in North east would connect Guwahati to capital cities/major cities of North east states like Itanagar, Dimapur, Kohima, Imphal, Aizwal, Agartala, Shilong, Silchar, Gangtok and Numaligarh. The grid would be connected with upcoming Barauni-Guwahati natural gas pipeline as a part of Urja Ganga Scheme. The grid would also connect to sustainable and viable indigenous gas sources in North-east. The pipeline grid has been designed with flexibility for gas injection in either direction.

1.48 An amount of Rs. 1000 crore has been earmarked in BE 2024-25 as grant-in-aid to IGGL for implementing north-east gas grid. The amount is part of Viable Gap Funding (VGF) committed by Central Government. The Ministry had earmarked Rs. 1800 crore in BE 2023-24 which was reduced to Rs. 1300 crore in RE 2023-24. However, the actual expenditure in FY 2023-24 remained Rs. 1043.38 crore.

1.49 When the Committee asked the Ministry about the current status of the implementation of the NEGG project, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 004.10.2024 informed as under:

“For the Financial Year 2024-25, budget for VGF grant of Rs 1000 Crore was projected but till date no request for VGF grant has been made.

Physical progress as of 30.09.24: 83.24% (Sch. 87.50%)

Actual Expenditure as of 15.09.24: Rs 5479 Crore (FY 24-25: Rs 117.59 Crore)

VGF received as 30.09.24: Rs 3601.91 Crore (FY 24-25: Nil)
 Expected date of completion of NEGG project is 31.03.2025.

The phase-wise construction status of the NEGG as on 29.09.2024 are as given below:

Phase	Sections (No.)	Scope in Km	Welding in Km	Lowering in Km	Hydrotest in Km
Phase I	Guwahati- Numaligarh (1)	392	392	392	392
	Gohpur- Itanagar (2)	27	24	22	13
	Dergaon - Dimapur (8)	123	123	123	75
	ONGC Feeder lines (15)	11	5	0	0
Total (A)		553	544	537	480
Phase II	Guwahati-Shillong-Silchar (6)	199	132	110	35
	Silchar-Panisagar (3)	112	102	93	47
	Panisagar-Agartala (5)	118	83	70	0
	Panisagar-Aizawl (7)	127	39	22	0
	Shillong CGD (14)	12	12	10	0
	Banaskandi Feeder Line (4)	60	33	21	0
	Khubal Feeder Line (9)	3	3	3	0
	Agartala-NEEPCO (13)	6	6	5	0
	Agartala-Tulamura (12)	86	14	11	0
Total (II)		723	424	345	82
Phase III	Dimapur-Kohima-Imphal (10)	199	26	8	0
	Siliguri-Gangtok (11)	195	13	8	0
Total (III)		394	39	16	0
Grand Total		1670	1007	898	562

I Numaligarh Refinery Expansion Project

1.50 The Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) was established in 1993 in accordance with historic Assam accord signed on 15th August, 1985 as an economic package. The NRL was dedicated to the nation by the former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the 9th of July, 1999 and the 3 MMTPA (Million Metric Tonne Per Annum) capacity refinery was commissioned on the 1st October, 2000. The refinery has embarked upon a major integrated expansion project to treble its capacity from 3 MMTPA to 9 MMTPA at an estimated investment of more than Rs. 28000 Cr. Out of this amount, the Central Government has committed Rs. 1020 Cr as Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The remaining cost of the project is being funded through addition equity from Promoters (Rs.3165 Cr), internal accruals (Rs. 4937 Cr) and commercial borrowings (Rs. 18904 Cr).

1.51 An amount of Rs. 275 crore has been earmarked in BE 2024-25 as grant-in-aid to NRL for implementing its expansion. The amount is part of Viable Gap Funding (VGF) committed by Central Government. The Ministry had earmarked Rs. 500 crore in BE 2023-24 which was reduced to Rs. 475.50 crore in RE 2023-24. The actual expenditure in FY 2023-24 stood at Rs. 475.50 crore.

1.52 The project was to be completed by 2024. However, the same seemed to the Committee to be late. Accordingly, when the Committee desired to know the current status of project alongwith steps taken to ensure its timely completion, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:

“As on 31 August, 2024, physical and financial progress of the Numaligarh Refinery Expansion Project (NREP) is 67.6% and 59.2% respectively. The revised completion schedule for NREP, as approved by NRL Board, is December, 2025. The progress of NREP is being monitored at the highest level in the Ministry and all efforts are being made to complete the project within the revised time-frame”.

J Capital Support to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)

1.53 An amount of Rs. 30000 crore had been earmarked in BE 2023-24 as capital support to OMCs for implementing energy transition projects. However, the same was reduced to Rs. 1 lakh in BE 2023-24. The actual expenditure in FY 2023-24 was nil. Now, a token amount of Rs. 1 lakh has been earmarked in BE 2024-25.

1.54 When the Committee asked the Ministry about extinguishing the above projected expenditure, the representative of the Ministry in the oral evidence before the Committee on 17.10.2024 stated as under:-

“This question of Rs. 30,000 crore equity infusion for energy transition, where did it go? The thing is this. In 2022-23, the oil companies suffered major losses. And we were afraid that they may not have any money left to invest in energy transition. By the time, we came 2023-24, the profitability of these companies improved, because the profitability improved, these companies were now in a position to continue their spending on energy transition. Therefore, the immediate requirement for money to come from Government became less. So, companies now have the resources and they already have their plans for making all the investments required for energy transition for their net zero dates which go up from 2032 to 2034 right up to 2046. So, these companies now have the resources to make those investments. If at any point of time there is a shortfall, I am sure they will come back to Government and we will approach the Ministry of Finance for any allocation as may be required at that point in time”.

K Scheme for Appraisal of Areas in India's Extended Continental Shelf

1.55 The Government of India announced a new Central Sector Scheme named Scheme for Appraisal of Areas in India's Extended Continental Shelf. The Scheme seek to ascertain the hydrocarbons potential of the Continental Shelf area of the country beyond the current Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary of 200 Nautical Miles. A provision of Rs. 388 crore has been made in BE 2024-25 for the scheme under Capital Section.

1.56 When the Committee desired to know the details of the scheme, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:

“Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) scheme aims at Acquisition, Processing and Interpretation (API) of 30,000 LKM of 2D seismic data in Eastern & Western Offshore areas beyond EEZ Boundary in India's Extended Continental Shelf. The Government has entrusted ONGC and OIL to conduct the 2D Seismic API for 15,500 LKM on west coast and 14,500 LKM on the east coast respectively at an estimated cost of Rs. 410 Cr. Good quality high-resolution seismic data with closer spacing in the Continental Shelf (about 0.6 million SKM) in Western and Eastern offshore beyond the EEZ boundary will provide valuable Reply regarding the presence of sediments and also help to ascertain hydrocarbon potential in the Continental Shelf area. It will also help in understanding the Tectonic setup, Basement configuration and depositional pattern of sediments. Along with gathering crucial seismic information, this will help validate the Government's claim of continental shelf boundary on the East and West coasts”.

1.57 Further, when the Committee asked about **the** monitoring mechanism **of** the expenditure under the above scheme, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:

“The Scheme is being funded by the Government, executed by ONGC and OIL and monitored by the DGH. The review of the said Scheme would be taken by the Government and DGH from time to time.

S. No.	Head	Expected Expenditure	Expected Expenditure
		FY: 2024-25 (INR Crore)	FY: 2025-26 (INR Crore)
1	2D Seismic Data Acquisition	214	186
2	Processing & Interpretation of Acquired 2D seismic Data	Nil	10

1.58 Thereafter, when the Committee asked the Ministry as to whether the work under the scheme had started, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:

“The activity has been initiated and ONGC has already issued Letters of Award (LOAs) for the Western Coast, and surveys are anticipated to commence by the end of December, 2024. Meanwhile, OIL is finalizing its tender, and they are also targeting to start survey work around the same time”.

1.59 Then, when the Committee asked the Ministry as to how the Ministry proposes to utilize the earmarked budget in just three months of FY 2024-25, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:-

“A budget of Rs. 410 Crore has been approved under the scheme “Appraisal of areas in India’s Extended Continental Shelf “, which is to be utilized in FY 2024-25 and 2025-26. Out of this budget, Rs. 200 Crore is earmarked for utilization in FY 2024-25. The month wise planned expenditure details against the scheme is given below. Further, the 2D seismic data acquisition in Western sector is expected to start from December, 2024. It may be noted that acquisition of data is possible only during fair weather window, i.e. from November – December onwards.

(in Rupees Crore)

Scheme	Planned expenditure (Crores)					
	2024			2025		
	October	November	December	January	February	March
Appraisal of areas in India’s Extended Continental Shelf	NIL	NIL	39.52	51.25	53.82	55.41

L Scheme for Development of Pipeline Infrastructure for injection of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) in City Gas Distribution Network

1.60 The Government of India announced a new scheme named the Scheme for Development of Pipeline Infrastructure for injection of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) in City Gas Distribution Network. A provision of Rs. 497.25 crore has been made in BE 2024-25 of the Ministry under capital section. In this regard, when the Committee

desired to know the details of the Scheme, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:

“The Government has launched a scheme offering financial assistance to Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) producers for acquiring biomass aggregation machinery (BAM). This scheme, which will run from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27, aims to facilitate the collection of biomass by covering up to 50% of the BAM procurement cost or Rs. 90 lakh per set, whichever is lower. Each project can receive a maximum of Rs. 9 crore under this scheme. The eligibility criteria include both existing and upcoming CBG projects that utilize at least 50% agricultural residue as feedstock and have a production capacity of more than 2 tons per day (TPD) of CBG. Furthermore, projects must have achieved at least 50% physical progress and be registered on the GOBARdhan portal”.

1.61 Further, when the Committee asked the Ministry about the manner and road map of implementation of the scheme, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:

“Applications for financial assistance are accepted via an online portal, which remains open from the 1st to the 30th day of each quarter. During the first quarter of the current financial year, 15 applications were received out of which 5 projects have been approved by MoPNG. During the second quarter, 3 applications have been received which are being scrutinized as per schematic norms. Additionally, the Government is organizing a series of workshops nationwide to raise awareness about the scheme and its benefits”.

M Mission Anveshan

1.62 The Government of India announced a new Central Sector scheme named Mission Anveshan in the Union budget 2024-25. A provision of Rs. 332 crore has been made in BE 2024-25 under the Capital Section.

1.63 In this regard, when the Committee asked the Ministry about the details of Mission Anveshan Scheme and nature of budgetary support and exploration under it, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in its written reply has stated as under:-

“Appraisal of Un-appraised sedimentary basins in India was done under the National Seismic Programme (NSP). Based on the leads provided by NSP data, a closed grid 2D seismic survey (API) has been proposed for the comprehensive appraisal under mission Anveshan in 07 on-land sedimentary basins.

Under the proposed Mission Anveshan scheme, 20,275 LKM of closed 2D seismic API have been planned in seven (07) on-land sedimentary basins i.e. Ganga-Punjab, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Deccan Synclise, Cudappah, Krishna-Godavari & Chattisgarh. The objective of this project is to infer comprehensive appraisal of the basins and bring out the hydrocarbon prospectivity in the areas where leads have been identified during the interpretation of data obtained under NSP. The Seismic lines planned are in close grid at an interval of 4-10 km. The 2D seismic Lines Gap in NSP was of the order of 20-50 Km. The scheme outlay

is of INR 792 cr. The estimated expenditure in 2024-25 is approximately INR 232 cr and the remaining amount is planned to be spent in the next financial year”.

1.64 Further, when the Committee asked the Ministry as to whether National Seismic Programme and Mission Anveshan have separate organizational structure and also to furnish the reasons for creating separate head for National Seismic Programme and Mission Anveshan in the BE 2024-25, the Ministry in its written reply has stated as under:-

“The National Seismic Programme (NSP), initiated in 2016, was aimed to towards comprehensive appraisal of India's onshore sedimentary basins. This ambitious project successfully concluded in 2022, having completed 46,960 LKM (Line kilometers) of 2D seismic acquisition, processing, and interpretation (API).

Building upon the promising leads discovered during NSP, Mission Anveshan was launched. This mission seeks to delve deeper into basin appraisal and identifying potential hydrocarbon prospects. So, NSP and Mission Anveshan have separate organizational structures”.

N PM-Jivan Yojana

1.65 The Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan – Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana in March, 2019, It aims to provide financial support to integrated bio-ethanol projects for setting up Second Generation (2G) ethanol projects in the country using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstocks. The total financial outlay for the scheme is Rs. 1969.50 crore for the period 2018-19 to 2023-24. To keep pace with the latest developments in the field of bio-fuels and to attract more investment, the yojana has been amended in 2024. The amended yojana extends timeline for implementation of the scheme by five years *i.e.* till 2029 and encourages the innovative technologies and diversified feedstocks. It also includes “bolt-on” plants and “brownfield projects” to leverage experience and improve viability. The aim of the scheme has also been enlarged to providing remunerative income to farmers for their agriculture residue, address environmental pollution, create local employment opportunities, and contribute to India’s energy security and self-reliance. It further supports the development of advanced bio-fuel technologies and promotes the Make in India Mission. It also helps in achieving India’s ambitious target for net-zero Green House Gases (GHG) emissions by 2070.

1.66 The Ministry has provided following information on budget allocation and expenditure in previous financial year and the current financial year:-

“The budgetary allocations during the following financial years in respect of PM JI-VAN Yojana is as follows:

(Rs in Crores)

2022-2023			2023-2024			2024-2025
BE	RE	ACTUALS	BE	RE	ACTUALS	Proposed BE
314.36	83.33	37.875	227.26	151.99	75.75	117.41

1.67 In this regard, when the Committee desired to know about the projects selected under the scheme, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:

“Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 908.25 crore has been approved to Public and Private Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for six commercial Advanced bio-ethanol projects in Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and four demonstration projects one each in Haryana, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Out of these, commercial project at Panipat (Haryana) has been dedicated to the Nation and commercial projects at Bhatinda (Punjab), Bargarh (Odisha), and Numaligarh (Assam) are in advanced stages of construction”.

1.68 After examination of budget proposal, the Committee observed that there was massive reduction of around 50% in the provision for PM JI-VAN Yojana in BE 2024-25 as against BE 2023-24. Accordingly, when the Committee asked the reasons for the same, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:-

“The Financial support for setting up advanced biofuel projects under the PM JI-VAN Yojana is granted based on the successful completion of defined project milestones. The allocated budget for 2023-24 could not be fully utilized as Project Developers faced challenges in achieving the milestones under the PM JI-VAN Yojana. These challenges included the complexity of new technologies, limited vendors for 2G equipment, delays in statutory clearances, issues with biomass supply chain logistics, COVID-related delays, slow finalization of deliverables due to first-time commercialization of technology, and disruptions in material/equipment delivery caused by geo-political situations”.

1.69 Then, when the Committee enquired from the Ministry about the original/revised timelines for completion of projects selected for assistance, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:-

Sr. No.	Organization	Location	Revised timelines for completion
1	IOCL-Comm.	Panipat, Haryana	28.04.2023
2	ABRPL-Comm.	Numaligarh, Assam	30.09.2024
3	BPCL-Comm.	Bargarh, Odisha	30.11.2024

4	HPCL-Comm.	Bathinda, Punjab	31.10.2024
5	MRPL-Comm.	Davangere, Karnataka	Yet to Start
6	RCPL-Comm.	Nandyal, A.P.	Yet to Start
7	IOCL- Demo	Panipat, Haryana	August 2024
8	HPCL-Demo	Sagauli, Bihar	March 2026
9	Lignopura Agrotech-Demo	Sangli, Maharashtra	September 2025
10	Godavari Biorefineries-Demo	Sameerwadi, Karnataka	March 2026

1.70 The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 **also** provided following information on physical and financial progress of projects selected under the scheme:-

Sr. No.	Organization	Location	Status
1	IOCL-Comm.	Panipat, Haryana	Commissioned
2	ABRPL-Comm.	Numaligarh, Assam	Under Commissioning
3	BPCL-Comm.	Bargarh, Odisha	Under Commissioning
4	HPCL-Comm.	Bathinda, Punjab	Under Construction
5	MRPL-Comm.	Davangere, Karnataka	Yet to Start
6	RCPL-Comm.	Nandyal, A.P.	Yet to Start
7	IOCL- Demo	Panipat, Haryana	Under Commissioning
8	HPCL-Demo	Sagauli, Bihar	Yet to Start
9	Lignopura Agrotech-Demo	Sangli, Maharashtra	Yet to Start
10	Godavari Biorefineries-Demo	Sameerwadi, Karnataka	Yet to Start

O Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGIPT)

1.71 Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGIPT) was established by Government of India in 2007 through an act of Parliament of India at Jais, District-Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. The Institute has been co-promoted by the six leading Indian

Public Sector Oil Companies and Oil Industry Development Board as an energy domain specific Institute. The Institute has two centres *i.e.* Assam Energy Institute (AEI), Sivasagar and Energy Institute, Bengaluru (EIB). It has been accorded the status of Institution of National Importance empowering it to conduct high quality Research and Development (R&D) work and award Bachelors, Masters, Doctoral and Post Graduate Diploma Degrees in different streams relevant to Petroleum Science and Technology including Management. The sources of fund of the Institute are grants from Government of India, Oil Industries Development Board, Oil PSUs, interest income on the corporate institutes and fees charge for educational courses.

1.72 No budget allocation in BE 2024-25 has been made for the Institute. There was also nil allocation during FY 2022-23 and 2023-24.

1.73 The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide reply dated 13.11.2024* provided following information on courses offered by the Institute and sanctioned intake of students:-

“The Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGIPT) Jais, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, currently offering 14 B.Tech. as well as 2 M.Tech., 2 MBA and Ph.D in Engineering, Sciences, Management Studies and Humanities subjects. There is a sanctioned strength of 706 seats for B. Tech., 20 for M. Tech., and 60 seats for MBA. Presently, 234 nos of Ph.D scholars are enrolled at RGIPT Jais Campus”.

1.74 Elaborating on the details of courses offered by the institute in FY 2023-24 and actual intake of students, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide reply dated 04.10.2024* provided following information:-

“The details of courses and intake in the academic year 2023-24 at Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology

RGIPT, Jais Campus (Uttar Pradesh):

Sl. No	Name of the Courses offered in 2023-24	Nos. of seats in 2022-23	Nos. of seats increased in AY 2023-24	Total Intake in 2023-24
	Undergraduate Programmes			
1	B. Tech. in Chemical Engineering	50	10	60
2	B Tech in Chemical Engineering (Major: Renewable Energy Engineering)	30	0	30
3	B. Tech. in Computer Science & Engineering	60	0	60
4	B. Tech. in Computer Sc.& Design Engg	30	20	50

5	B. Tech. in Electronics Engineering	50	0	50
6	B. Tech. in Electrical Engg (Major: E Vehicle)	30	20	50
7	B. Tech. in Information Technology	50	0	50
8	B. Tech. in Mathematics and Computing	40	20	60
9	B. Tech. in Petroleum Engineering	50	10	60
10	IDD in Computer Science and Engineering and Artificial Intelligence	40	0	40
11	B.Tech. in Geoscience & Engineering	0	0	20
	Total (A)	450	80	530
New Programmes Added in A.Y. 2023-24				
12	B. Tech. in Petroleum Engineering (Major: Applied Petroleum Geoscience)	-	-	30
13	B. Tech. in Chemical Engineering (Major: Petrochemicals and Polymers Engineering)	-	-	20
	Total (B)	0	0	50
	Grand Total (A+B)	450	80	580

RGIPT, Sivasagar Campus (Assam)

Sl. No	Name of the Courses offered in 2023-24	Nos. of seats in 2023-24	Nos. of seats increased in 2023-24	Total Intake in 2023-24
1	Diploma in Chemical Engineering	60	20	80
2	Diploma in Electronics and Instrumentation Engg	40	40	80
3	Diploma in Fire and Safety Engineering	40	40	80
4	Diploma in Mechanical Engineering	60	20	80
5	Diploma in Petroleum Engineering	60	20	80
	Total	260	140	400

1.75 Considering current emphasis of the government on increasing exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas and making India a global hub of Petroleum and Petrochemicals industries, when the Committee enquired from the Ministry about B. Tech. seats in Petroleum engineering currently available in the country and the

requirement of the same by 2030, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* reply dated 13.11.2024 provided following information:-

“There are two institutions under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, offering B. Tech. in Petroleum Engineering. These institutions are- Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGIPT), Amethi, Uttar Pradesh and Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy (IIPET), Visakhapatnam.

Currently, there are 90 seats available in B. Tech. in Petroleum Engineering, 10 in M. Tech. in Petroleum Engineering and 80 in IDD in Petroleum Engineering at RGIPT.

Further to that approximately 81 colleges (Government as well as private) are there in India, which offer B. Tech. in Petroleum Engineering, with a total of around 3,000 seats available annually”.

1.76 Further, when the Committee asked the Ministry about reasons for not making provision for RGIPT in the Union budget, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* reply dated 13.11.2024 provided following information:-

“One time Government Budgetary Support of Rs 100 crore, as approved by the Committee of Establishment Expenditure (CEE) on 13.08.2021 for Assam Energy Institute (AEI), Sivasagar (Assam) has already been released by this Ministry in FY 2021-22.

Further, while reviewing the financial status of the Institute, General Council of RGIPT during its 16th meeting held on 27.7.2023 advised RGIPT to prepare a comprehensive plan of the Institute including financial requirements. Accordingly, a vision document has been submitted by RGIPT which is under consideration in the Ministry”.

1.77 This Committee in their report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) had recommended to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to ensure B.Tech. and M. Tech. courses in RGIPT, Sivasagar, Assam. In this regard, when the Committee asked the Ministry about the status of the same, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 13.11.2024 informed as under:

“The Assam Energy Institute (AEI), Sivasagar commenced the academic programmes with 3 Diploma courses from Academic Session 2017-18. The Institute has started offering 6-year Integrated Dual Degree (IDD) programme from Academic Session 2024-25 with a provision to award Diploma after completion of 3-year course and B.Tech degree after completion of 6-year course. The multiple entry and exit provisions have been made in line with New Education Policy (NEP), 2020 requirements. An Endowment Fund of Rs. 147.03 Crores is set up for the Institute for meeting its recurring Expenditures”.

P Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPET)

1.78 The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPET) was setup under the provisions of Andhra Pradesh re-organization Act, 2014, in 2016 through an Act of

Parliament. It is an institute of national importance located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, it is a domain specific institute at par with IITs and IIMs, established by Government of India under AEGIS of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Institute is presently operating its academic activities from its temporary campus in Andhra University which is located in the heart of the city at Visakhapatnam. The Institute has been allotted 201.8 acres of land in vangali village of sabbavaram mandal in Anakapalli district near Visakhapatnam. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi virtually laid stone for the greenfield permanent campus of IPE in Visakhapatnam on 2nd March, 2024.

1.79 A provision of Rs. 168 crore has been made in BE 2024-25 for IPE.

1.80 When the Committee asked the Ministry about budgetary support to IPE in the previous financial year and the current financial year, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide reply dated 04.10.2024 provided following information:-

“Detail of budgetary allocations by this Ministry in respect of Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy (IPE), Visakhapatnam is given below:

In crore									
2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25
BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals	BE
95.00	95.00	23.75	150.00	100.00	29.25	168.00	90.00	90.00	168.00

1.81 The Committee found wide variations in the BE, RE and actual expenditure of last three financial years. The actual expenditure during these years were found to be dismal in comparison to BE & RE. Accordingly, when the Committee asked the Ministry about the status of construction work of IPE campus, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide reply dated 04.10.2024 provided following information:-

“As per provisions made under the Andhra Pradesh Re- organization Act, 2014, the Government of India established the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IPE), in the year 2016 at Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy Act, 2017; enacted by the Parliament declared it as an ‘Institution of National Importance’.

Since its inception, the institute is operating from temporary campus situated at 2nd Floor, Main Building, Andhra University College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Presently, the Institute is offering 4-year B.Tech. courses in Petroleum Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering in addition to Web based M.Tech in Data Science and Machine Learning, M.Sc.in Applied Geology and Ph.D. in the relevant fields.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh had allotted 201.80 acres of land free of cost for construction of the permanent campus of IPE at Vangali Village, Sabbavaram Mandal, Anakapalli District (erstwhile Visakhapatnam District). However, due to prolonged legal dispute, the land could be handed over to IPE only in March, 2023 after the decision of Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh. The construction activities of the permanent campus of the Institute are under progress. The construction of the boundary wall around the land has been completed in April, 2024. The Institute has entrusted the activities for construction of buildings in the permanent campus to the CPWD. As on date, 34% of the construction work has been completed.

Original Time lines and Cost Estimates: As per the Cabinet approval, the infrastructure development of the Institute was proposed to be completed in 2 phases [Phase1: FY2016-17 to FY2019-20 and Phase2: FY2020-21 to FY2022-23] with outlay of Rs.655.46 Crores.

Revised Time lines and Cost Estimates: The construction activities were delayed due to prolonged legal dispute in handing over of the land to the Institute. The estimates in original Detailed Project Report (DPR) were prepared on the basis of Plinth Area Rates of 10 years old which will not match with the latest construction cost due to time lag, inflation and introduction of GST. Therefore, IPE has entrusted the work of preparation of revised DPR to EdCIL on 30.08.2024”.

1.82 Thereafter, when the Committee asked the Ministry about the financial and physical progress of construction work of IPE, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* reply dated 13.11.2024 provided following information:-

“The financial and physical progress of construction work of IPE Campus as on 28.10.2024 is as follows:

S. No.	Details	Progress
(i)	Financial Progress	30%
(ii)	Physical Progress	37%

1.83 Then, when the Committee asked the Ministry as to how tenders are being floated and bills settled in absence of proper DPR and cost estimates, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* reply dated 13.11.2024 provided following information:-

“The Institute has entrusted the activities for construction of buildings in the permanent campus to the CPWD. The construction of some buildings has started in the permanent campus based on the available Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Government budgetary Support as approved by the Cabinet. Parallely, the revision of DPR of the Institute is under progress by M/s EdCIL”.

Q Oil Industries Development Cess (OID Cess)

1.84 The Government of India levies a cess on domestic production of crude oil. The cess is being levied since 1974. The cess was levied at Rs. 60 per tonne in July, 1974

and subsequently revised from time to time. In 2005-06, when the crude oil prices had increased from an average of \$ 40 per barrel to \$ 60, the OID Cess was raised from Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2500 per tonne from 1st March, 2006. Again, when the crude prices climbed to over \$ 100 per barrel, the rate of cess was increased to Rs. 4500 per tonne with effect from 17th March, 2012, the Finance Ministry revised OID Cess in the FY 2017-18 Union Budget. The cess was shifted from specific charge of Rs. 4500 per tonne of crude oil to an valorem rate of 20 per cent. The same was done to help the exploration firms from higher cess burden at a time when crude oil prices were falling.

1.85 The OID Cess is levied on production from nomination and pre-NELP crude oil and gas blocks. Crude oil produced from block allotted under NELP/OALP does not attract OID Cess as the same provides pricing and marketing freedom to operators along with the power to select the block for exploration. The OID Cess mainly affects state owned ONGC and OIL as most of domestic production of crude oil comes from nomination and pre-NELP oil and gas fields held by these companies.

1.86 In this regard, when the Committee asked the Ministry about the amount paid by ONGC and OIL towards OID Cess during the last three financial years, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:

“OID cess paid by ONGC during last three financial years is as follows:

Financial Year	OID Cess (Rs. Crore)
2023-24	13,931
2022-23	15,951
2021-22	14,126

OID cess paid by OIL during last three financial years is as follows:

Financial Year	Cess Paid (Rs. in Crore)
2021-22	2,011.81
2022-23	2,513
2023-24	2440

1.87 Further, when the Committee desired to know about the impact of OID Cess on the finances of public sector oil companies like ONGC and OIL, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024 informed as under:

“OID Cess is levied on crude oil in terms of The Oil Industries (Development) Act, 1974. Till February 2016, OID Cess was levied at specific rate (Rs./ MT) and revised from time to time keeping in view crude oil prices. Considering unprecedented reduction in crude prices, OID Cess was reviewed and revised from Rs. 4,500/MT to ad-valorem 20% w.e.f. 01 March 2016 by MoP&NG.

Though in the Budget, introduction of ad-valorem OID Cess rate was envisaged by the Government as relief for the industry, its unduly high rate at 20% has impacted industry adversely. OID Cess is levied @ 20% only on crude oil produced from nominated blocks and Pre-NELP Exploratory Blocks. Most of the Fields of the Pre-NELP and nomination regime are already in the production decline stage and need more initiatives and expenditure to maintain/enhance the existing production level. Further OID Cess is levied only on crude oil produced domestically. Thus, it places domestic crude oil producers at a significant disadvantage vis-à-vis imported crude oil. Besides OID Cess, other statutory levies viz. SAED (rates revised fortnightly), royalty (@ 10% and 20% on offshore & onshore production respectively) and VAT (@ 5%) are also paid. OID Cess, SAED and royalty are production levies and are not passed on to Buyers and form part of cost of production. It makes many new development projects economically unviable. During low crude oil price regime, it also results into significant amount of impairment loss of upstream assets.

Moreover, OID Cess has the effect of reducing the resources available with the NOCs (ONGC/OIL) for exploratory efforts to bring larger area of the country under exploratory coverage. Given the 85% import dependence in case of crude oil, it is essential that more resources are made available to NOCs to enhance exploration coverage in the country for energy security reasons. Government may therefore also consider allocating a portion of the OID Cess collection to NOCs and thereby supplement the internal accruals of NOCs for the exploration activities”.

1.88 Considering the effect of OID Cess on the financial resources of ONGC and OIL, when the Committee asked the Ministry whether it had taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 13.11.2024 informed as under:

“As per the provisions of the OID Act, a cess is collected as duty of excise on the specified items and credited to the consolidated fund of India. The same has not been paid by crediting into the Fund. Ministry has taken up the matter of creation of an OID Fund and credit of cess to the Fund with the Ministry of Finance”.

R Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of Oil PSUs

1.89 The Oil and Gas industry is a capital and intensive sector. Therefore, Oil PSUs have large IEBR budgets for capital expenditure on upgradation, expansion of existing installation and setting up new installations.

1.90 In this regard, when the Committee asked the Ministry about their IEBR budgets and actual expenditure of last three financial years, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.102024 informed as under:

“Details regarding different heads under which Oil PSUs have made their budgetary allocations during the last three financial years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 is tabled below:-

(in
Crore)

S.NO	Heads	2022-23				2023-24				2024-25
		BE	RE	Actual	% Actual Achievement over RE	BE	RE	Actual	% Actual Achievement over RE	BE
1	Exploration & Production Sector	50536	46140	48125	104.3	46757	48868	55934	114.5	50382
2	Refining & Marketing Sector	53876	33224	61822	186.1	52749	54072	69763	129.0	57176
3	Petro-Chemicals Sector	6742	4292	8966	208.9	6756	9181	10933	119.1	10851
4	Engineering Sector	200	110	114	103.6	138	138	191	138.2	90
	Total	111354	83766	119027	142.1	06401	112259	136821	121.9	118499

1.91 Further, when the Committee asked the Ministry about actual expenditure under IEBR budgets of Oil PSUs in FY 2024-25, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 04.102024 informed as under:

“Details of the IEBR of Oil PSUs under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of P&NG during the Financial Year 2024-25 and details of actual utilization of these funds by Oil PSUs till 31st August 2024 in the current year is produced below:

(In Rs Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the CPSEs	2024-25	
		BE	Actual (as on 31.8.24)
1	ONGC	30800	15096

2	OVL	5580	1951
3	OIL	6880	2060
4	GAIL	8044	2349
5	IOCL	30909	15199
6	BPCL	13000	4231
7	HPCL	12500	4707
8	MRPL	820	203
9	CPCL	501	225
10	NRL	9375	3338
11	BLL	40	12
12	EIL	50	11
	Total	118499	49381

S Research and Development (R&D)

1.92 The Oil and Gas industry is a large scale capital and technology intensive industry. The industry has undergone rapid changes in the past through use of innovative technologies. The technology has helped the industry in finding new reserves of oil and gas, exploitation of oil and gas resources previously deemed unexploitable resources, development of efficient fuels and lubes, development of variety of petrochemicals, etc. The technology is critical for the industry. However, the Committee observed that there is no provision in the budget of the Ministry for expenditure on research and development.

1.93 In this regard, the Committee made certain queries to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding expenditure on R&D projects of national importance. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas furnished information *vide* written reply dated 04.10.2024. The queries of the Committee and replies of the Ministry thereto are as under:

DGH has been engaging with prominent Indian institutes for research and development of Indian E&P Sector. In the process, DGH through OI&D is funding an R&D project of IIT, Madras 'Pilot Implementation of Permeate Technology'. The project was started in January 2023 and likely to be completed in December 2024. Total approved funding for the said project is Rs.1.61 crore, out of which Rs. 1.55 crore (approx.) has been spent.

For real-time implementation of Permeate technology at ONGC Jorhat, a MoU between HEMRL DRDO and IITM was signed for the development and testing of device. Real-time testing of device is scheduled in November 2024. Currently, testing is conducted in HEMRL, DRDO lab in Pune. The project is likely to be completed in December 2024.

Further, DGH had executed the following MoUs with prominent Indian institutes for research and development of the Indian E&P Sector. Research fellowship,

expert fees, project-related consumables, stay/ travels and contingencies were borne by the DGH.

Serial No.	Institute/Agency	Nature of Study	Effective Date	End Date	Cost (in Lakh)
1	Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU), Gandhinagar, India	Geoscientific data analysis of Kutch-Saurashtra Basins	01-01-2023	31-12-2023	Rs. 21.14
2	Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGIPT), Jais, Amethi, India	Geoscientific data analysis of Ganga-Punjab&Vindhyan Basins	01-02-2023	31-08-2023	Rs.9.23
3	Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy (IIFE), Vishakhapatnam, India	Geoscientific data analysis of Kerala-Konkan Basin	01-05-2023	15-11-2023	Rs.8.27
4	The Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad	Assessment of CBM prospectivity and study of other unconventional hydrocarbon resources such as Shale Oil/Gas also	04.04.2022	5 years	On case to case basis. So far grant of Rs.4 lakh has been provided.

1.94 Considering the meager expenditure of Rs. 2 crore by OI&DG on R&D projects of national importance in last three years, when the Committee desired to know the view of the Ministry on providing budgetary support to R&D projects of national importance, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* written reply dated 13.11.2024 submitted as under:-

“It has been the constant endeavor of DGH to collaborate with the premier institutes in the country and encourage R&D Projects that enhance the Exploration & Production activities in the upstream sector. Several discussions in the past had been held with the esteemed organizations of Country. Recently, DG, DGH held an interaction with the Institutes of Eminence like IITs, RGIPT, IIFE, IISER etc. on 14th August, 2024 on the need for Industry-Academia Collaboration for Upstream Oil & Gas Industry.

Following the interaction, a number of project proposals have been received from IITs Delhi, Bombay and Kharagpur in the areas of LLM in subsurface geology, CCUS and implementation of AI/ML in the E&P sector. More such proposals are awaited in the coming days. DGH is working on examining these proposals and it is expected that process for funding the shortlisted projects will be initiated shortly”.

PART II
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS

In pursuance of Rule 331E (1) (a) of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Demands for Grants (2024-25) in respect of different Ministries/Departments stand referred to concerned Departmentally related Standing Committees. This report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2024-25) has examined the Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas under its jurisdiction. The observations/recommendations of the Committee are in succeeding paragraphs:-

Recommendation No. 1

Need to streamline budget making process

The Committee note that the total allocation of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in BE 2024-25 is Rs. 15930.26 cr. as against Rs. 41007.72 cr. in BE 2023-24. Out of the budgeted amount, Rs. 14801.29 cr. has been allocated towards revenue expenditure and Rs.1128.97 cr. has been allocated towards capital expenditure. In FY 2021- 22, the BE of the Ministry was Rs. 15943.78 crore which was reduced to Rs. 8846.13 crore at the RE stage. The Actual Expenditure in that year was only Rs. 5753.63 crore. In FY 2022-23, the BE of the Ministry was Rs. 8939.86 crore which was increased to Rs. 33883.55 crore at the RE stage. The Actual Expenditure in the year was Rs. 30912.71 crore. In FY 2023-24, the BE of the Ministry was Rs. 41007.72 crore which was reduced to Rs. 14757.01 crore at the stage of RE. The Actual Expenditure in the year was Rs. 14330.21 crore. The Committee note that there have been wide variations in Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual Expenditure of the last three financial years of the Ministry. The Committee, however, understand that the financial estimates of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas are closely linked with changes taking place in international market prices of crude oil and gas. It may, therefore, not always be possible for the Government to accurately anticipate the international price movements of petroleum products as price movement is dependent on external or international factors. Hence

such wide variations in BE, RE and Actual Expenditure of the Ministry. The Committee, however, underline that such wide variation in BE and RE and actuals hinders the cause of prudent planning and management of financial resources of the Government. The Committee, accordingly, recommend that every effort must be made by the Ministry to ensure that such huge variations in estimates are avoided by way of effective financial and economic planning.

Recommendation No. 2

Need to increase Capital Expenditure

The Committee note that an amount of Rs. 1128.97 cr. has been allocated towards capital expenditure in the Budget Estimates (BE) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the financial year 2024-25 as against Rs. 35508.98 crore in BE 2023-24, which is only 3.17 per cent of the B.E. in 2023-24.

The Committee note that Oil and Gas Sector is an important industrial sector in the country. It contributes about 15 per cent to the GDP of the country and 25 per cent of the revenue receipts of the central and state governments. This sector is also a large employment generator. The Committee further note that the import dependency of the crude oil and natural gas of the country is very high and the same is a big concern for the energy security of the country. In this backdrop, the Committee opine that in order to achieve long term goal of securing energy security, the country needs to make large capital investments.

The Committee are aware that oil PSUs of the government of India make large capital expenditure. The IEBR allocation towards capital expenditure of Oil PSUs in the current fiscal year is estimated to be Rs. 1,18,499 crore. The budget data provided by the Ministry shows that there is a reduction of Rs. 18,322 crore in estimated allocation towards capital expenditure of Oil PSUs in the current financial year from the actual capital expenditure of Rs. 1,36,821 crores in FY 2023-24. The estimated IEBR budget towards capital expenditure of Oil PSUs in FY 2024-25 is of the same level as the actual capital expenditure of Rs. 1,19,027 crore in FY 2022-23.

The Committee further observe that the capital expenditure of the Ministry

and Oil PSUs is not sufficient to meet and manage the surge in demand of petroleum products in the country and achieve net-zero targets. The Committee find the capital expenditure of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Oil PSUs in current financial year inadequate to achieve the basic long term goal of energy security. Accordingly, the Committee recommend the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to endeavor for increase in the allocation towards capital expenditure in the next possible opportunity.

Recommendation No. 3

Transfer of Petrochemicals division from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

The Committee note that petrochemical industry is a fast growing industrial sector in the country. The demand of petrochemical products in the country has been increasing at a CAGR of about 8 per cent in the last few years. The Committee also note that Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) of the country have become large, diversified and integrated. They have also large presence in the petrochemicals sector and actively engaged in increasing their Petrochemicals intensity index. IOCL has plans to increase its petrochemicals intensity index from current 5 per cent to 15 per cent by 2030.

In view of the growing importance of the petrochemicals in the Petroleum sector, the Committee recall their recommendation included in their 18th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2023-24) in which they had suggested the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to examine the expediency of transfer of petrochemicals division from the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and to take up the issue with the Cabinet Secretariat for amendment of Allocation of Business Rules of the Government of India, if needed. In this regard, the representative of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas deposed before the Committee during evidence that the decision would not be taken by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas alone. There were multiple stake holders in this and all of them had their own views.

The Committee are of the opinion that the petroleum and petrochemicals industries are inter-related. The feedstock for petrochemicals industry is provided by petroleum industry. Therefore, better synergy between them will help both the industries and contribute to their mutual faster growth. The Committee also view that the transfer of Petrochemicals division from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas will help in better policy formulation for both the sectors and facilitate ease of doing business. Accordingly, the Committee recommend the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to take up the matter with the Cabinet Secretariat for initiating a dialogue process involving all the stake holders for transfer of Petrochemicals division from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Recommendation No. 4

Need to achieve universal coverage of Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has successfully provided 10.33 crore connections as on August, 2024 under PMUY. The Committee acknowledge the achievement of the Ministry and opine that the scheme has certainly helped in empowering women from poor and unprivileged sections of the society and improving their living standards by helping them in getting rid of the smoky and hazardous chullhas. However, based on the findings of Comprehensive Annual Modular (CAM) Survey 2022-23 conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and replies of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Committee are of the view that the country has achieved substantial progress in achieving universal coverage of LPG connections which is the core objective of PMUY. The Committee therefore, recommend that the Ministry may further intensify its public awareness campaign for the PMUY and work out new and innovative ways of encouraging people to avail the benefits under PMUY.

Recommendation No. 5

Need to increase subsidy on LPG gas cylinders issued under PMUY

The Committee note that the current refill rate of LPG cylinders issued under PMUY is 3.95 per year. This is much less than the refill rate of non-PMUY LPG cylinder which is about 6.5. The Committee further note that the provision of subsidy on refilling of LPG cylinders issued under PMUY, currently being Rs. 300 per cylinder, has contributed towards increase in refill rate of LPG cylinders issued under the Yojana from 3.01 in 2019-20 to 3.95 in 2023-24. Thus, there is direct causal relationship between increase in amount of subsidy on LPG cylinders issued under the PMUY and increase in refill rate of such cylinders over the years. The Committee further note that the current refill rate of LPG cylinders issued under PMUY is much below the stated policy of Government of India to issue 12 subsidized LPG cylinders per year to the beneficiaries of PMUY.

The Committee appreciate that the PMUY has brought positive changes in the living standards and life style of women specially rural women. However, the Committee feel that the low refill rate of LPG cylinders issued under PMUY is indicative of the fact that the target consumers are not able to take full benefit of the scheme. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to find out the reasons there for and work out suitable remedies. Increasing the subsidy amount on refilling of LPG cylinders may be a solution. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry may increase the subsidy to such an extent that makes the price of LPG refill cylinders affordable to the poor beneficiaries. This will not only increase the refill rate of cylinders but also help in widening the coverage of beneficiaries.

Recommendation No. 6

Need to effectively target subsidies on LPG Cylinders

The Committee note that one lakh PMUY connections were blocked in FY 2023-24. Thus, considering 3.95 per year refill rate of LPG cylinders issued under PMUY and Rs. 300 per cylinder of subsidy on them, the Ministry would have saved around Rs. 11.85 crore subsidy on LPG cylinders issued under PMUY. Further, 7 lakh non-PMUY connections were blocked in 2023-24. The

same must have also contributed in additional savings. The quantity of blocked connections points towards the large number of instances of misuse of government subsidy and the same need to be curbed. The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas/Oil PSUs and recommend them to intensify identification and blocking of ghost LPG connections keeping in mind that the bonafide beneficiaries should not be affected. The subsidy should be effectively targeted towards the benefit of the poor and needy persons.

Recommendation No. 7

Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves – Filling up the crude reserves

The Committee note that a budget of Rs. 5000 crore had been allocated in BE 2023-24 for filling up crude oil reserves. However, no expenditure on this account was incurred in FY 2023-24. For the year 2024-25 the Ministry has not allocated any amount for filling up of strategic crude reserves as the expenditure on this account was deferred during the previous year. The Ministry has stated that provision on this account will be made during the next financial year, i.e. 2025-26.

The Committee further note that the basic objective of setting up of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves was securing energy security for the country in the event of oil shocks. However, the Committee note from reply of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that out of total capacity of 5.33 MMT of crude oil of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves, the Current crude stock in all three caverns is 3.6059 MMT. This is 67 per cent of the rated capacity of 3 caverns. The Committee feel that under the given geo-political scenario of the world, especially that of the regions which are major suppliers of crude oil, a cautious approach is required for maintenance of sufficient buffer stock of crude oil to meet any emergent situation to protect the energy security of the country. Accordingly, the Committee recommend the Ministry to maintain the optimum level of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves and take up the matter of allocation of adequate budget with the Ministry of Finance.

Recommendation No. 8

Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves - Need to expedite Construction of Phase – II

The Committee note that an amount of Rs. 408 crore has been allocated in the BE 2024-25 of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for construction of underground caverns in Phase – II of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves. The Committee further note from the reply of the Ministry that the construction of phase – II of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves has not started yet. It was informed that even the land for the project has not been acquired so far. In view of the strategic importance of the project, the Committee recommend the Ministry to vigorously pursue the authorities concerned including the respective State Governments, expedite the whole process and ensure full utilization of the budget earmarked for the project in the current financial year so as to accelerate the pace of the work of Phase-II of the project and to ensure that the intended purpose is served.

Recommendation No. 9

Need to expedite implementation of PM-Jivan Yojana

The Committee note that during the last 5 years of the operation of the PM Jivan Yojana only an amount of Rs. 265 crore has been spent against total financial outlay of Rs. 1969.50 crore and approved financial assistance of Rs. 908.25 crore. Further, out of 6 commercial and 4 demonstration projects selected by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for providing financial assistance under the scheme, only 1 commercial plant located at Panipat, Haryana has been commissioned. The Committee has been informed that in BE 2022-23, a budget of Rs. 314.36 crore had been allocated by the Ministry against which the actual expenditure stood at merely Rs. 37.875 crore. Similarly, in the year 2023-24, against budget estimate of Rs. 227.26 crore, the actual expenditure was recorded to be as low as Rs. 75.75 crore. The Committee find the expenditure pattern unsatisfactory. Now, in the current Financial Year of 2024-25, the budget estimates for the project has been reduced to Rs. 117.41

crore.

As regards, under utilization of budget for the yojana, the Ministry informed the Committee that the allocated budget for 2023-24 could not be fully utilized as Project Developers faced challenges in achieving the milestones under the PM JI-VAN Yojana. These challenges included the complexity of new technologies, limited vendors for 2G equipment, delays in statutory clearances, issues with biomass supply chain logistics, COVID-related delays, slow finalization of deliverables due to first-time commercialization of technology, and disruptions in material/equipment delivery caused by geo-political situations. The Committee observe that the Ministry had furnished the same explanation to the Committee during examination of Demands for Grants – 2023-24. The Committee view that when a new industry is developed by any country, challenges are bound to be encountered. The Committee also view that 2G ethanol plants are vital for securing energy security for the country as India is deficient in hydrocarbon resources especially crude oil and natural gas. Accordingly, the Committee recommend to the Ministry to make more concrete and vigorous efforts to overcome the obstacles being faced by 2G ethanol plants selected for the yojana.

Recommendation No. 10

Scheme for Appraisal of Areas in India's Extended Continental Shelf - Need to expedite the implementation

The Committee note that Government of India has launched a new Central Sector scheme for Appraisal of Areas in India's Extended Continental Shelf and a provision of Rs. 388 crore has been made in BE 2024-25 under the Capital Section in the Union Budget. The scheme is a welcome initiative of the Government of India for appraisal of hydrocarbon resources in India's Extended Continental Shelf. The successful implementation of the scheme may make additions to precious crude oil and natural gas resources of the country. However, the Committee has been informed that the project has not started yet and it is likely to commence

by the end of December, 2024. Accordingly, the Committee recommend the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to monitor the implementation of the project and ensure that the budget earmarked for the scheme in the current year is utilized fully.

Recommendation No. 11

Mission Anveshan – Monitoring the implementation

The Committee note that Government of India launched another new Central Sector scheme *i.e.* Mission Anveshan in the Union Budget 2024-25 for intensive appraisal of India's on-shore sedimentary basins building upon the leads provided in data acquired under National Seismic Programme. A provision of Rs. 332 crore has been made in BE 2024-25 for the scheme. The Committee have been given to understand that the welcome initiative of the Government of India Mission Anveshan has been launched in continuity with the National Seismic Programme aiming at the appraisal of hydrocarbon resources in India's on-shore sedimentary basins. The Committee are of the opinion that success of such ambitious schemes depends on its effective implementation. The Committee therefore, suggest the Ministry to come out with a roadmap for time bound implementation of the scheme and utilization of the budget earmarked for the same in the current financial year. The Committee also recommend the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to monitor the implementation of the project and utilization of the budget earmarked for the same so as to ensure that the Mission may successfully fulfill the intended objectives.

Recommendation No. 12

Need to expedite Numaligarh Refinery Expansion Project Work

The Committee note that Numaligarh Refinery is implementing a major refinery expansion project to treble its crude oil refining capacity from 3 MMTPA to 9 MMTPA at an estimated capital expenditure of about Rs. 28000 crore. Out of this amount, the Central Government committed Rs. 1020 crore as Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The project was to be completed by 2024. The Committee find

that an amount of Rs. 500 crore was earmarked in BE 2023-24 which was reduced at RE stage to Rs. 475.50 crore. This year an amount of Rs. 275 crore has been earmarked as grant-in-aid to NRL for implementing its expansion. However, the Committee have been informed that as on 31.08.2024, the physical and financial progress of the project were 67.6 percent and 59.2 percent respectively. The completion date of the project has been revised upto December, 2025. The Committee are concerned about the apparent delay in completion of the expansion project and recommend the Ministry to closely monitor the project at the highest level so as to avoid any further time overrun and consequent cost escalation. The Committee may be apprised of the progress made in the expansion project in due course.

Recommendation No. 13

Oil Industries Development Cess (OID Cess)

The Committee note that the levy of OID Cess on domestic production of crude oil mostly impacts public sector upstream oil and gas companies *viz.* ONGC and OIL. The Committee further note that OID Cess paid by ONGC during last three financial year are Rs. 14126, 15951 and 13921 crore respectively. The OID Cess paid by OIL during last three financial years are Rs. 2011, 2513 and 2440 crore respectively.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in a note stated that the OID Cess has the effect of reducing the resources available with the NOCs (ONGC/OIL) for exploratory efforts to bring larger area of the country under exploratory coverage. Given the 85% import dependent in case of crude oil, it is essential that more resources are made available to NOCs to enhance exploration coverage in the country for energy security reasons. The Ministry further emphasised that the Government may consider allocating a portion of the OID Cess collection to NOCs and thereby supplement the internal accruals of NOCs for the exploration activities. The Committee was further informed by the Ministry that they had taken up the matter of creation of an OID Fund and credit of cess to the Fund with the Ministry of Finance. The Committee acknowledge the efforts made by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and

expect that they will vigorously pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance so that the sum provided through the IOD Fund may be utilized by the upstream oil and gas sector towards enhancement of exploration coverage in the larger interest of energy security of the country.

Recommendation No. 14

Need for higher allocation for R&D projects in Petroleum Sector and better synchronisation between stakeholders

The Committee note that research and development activities in petroleum sector is of paramount importance especially as the sector is of crucial importance for the national economy. Moreover, petroleum sector is already undergoing rapid changes in view of higher emphasis on energy transition nationally as well as globally. R & D will have an important role in this. The Committee also note that OIBD has committed Rs 2 crore in last three years for R&D projects. This amount appears to be inadequate, oil and gas sector being a technology intensive sector. The Committee, however, also understand that bulk of expenditure in R&D projects in the sector is being undertaken in the OMCs.

Accordingly, the Committee recommend that the Ministry may look into the issue of greater budgetary support for R&D projects of national importance. Moreover, the Committee also recommend that the Ministry may take steps to ensure better synchronisation in R&D activities between OMCs and other public sector institutions having R&D activity in the sector to achieve better outcomes.

Recommendation No. 15

Need to expedite completion of North-East Gas Grid (NEGG) Project

The Committee note that the current physical progress of the North-East Gas Grid (NEGG) Project is 83.24 per cent and the project is expected to be completed by 31.03.2025. In this regard, the Committee recall that the Ministry had informed the Committee during examination of Demands for Grants (2023-24) that project would be operational by 2024. However, considering the current physical progress of the project, there is an apparent delay in completion of the project. Accordingly, the Committee recommend the Ministry to make vigorous

efforts to complete the project by revised deadline and ensure that no further delay takes place.

Recommendation No. 16

Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGIPT)

The Committee note that the RGIPT is an Institute of National Importance mandated to conduct high quality R&D work and award Bachelors, Masters, Doctoral and PG Diploma Degrees in different streams related to Petroleum Science and Technology including Management. The Committee further note that The Institute has two Centres i.e. Assam Energy Institute (AEI) Sivasagar & Energy Institute Bengaluru (EIB) in addition to the main campus at Jais, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.

The Committee have been informed that RGIPT, Jais, Amethi is currently offering 14 B. Tech., 2 M. Tech, 2 MBA and Phd in Engineering, Sciences, Management Studies and Humanity Subjects. There is a sanctioned strength of 706 seats for B. Tech., 20 for M. Tech. and 60 seats for MBA. Moreover, 234 nos. of the Phd Scholars are enrolled at RGIPT Jais Campus.

As regards, Assam Energy Institute (AEI), Sivasagar, the Committee was informed that the Institute is offering Diploma courses in various streams. It has increased the number of Diploma seats from 260 to 400 in 2023-24. After the recommendation of the Committee on P&NG, it has also started offering 6-year Integrated Dual Degree (IDD) programme from Academic Session 2024-25 with a provision to award Diploma after completion of 3-year course and B.Tech. degree after completion of 6-year course.

The Committee are of the opinion that the prime objective behind setting up of RGIPT is to provide high quality education, training and research to generate efficient human resources to meet growing human resource requirement in Petroleum and Energy Sector.

The Committee desire that the Ministry may look into the feasibility of opening new centres in different parts of the country covering wide range of undergraduate and post graduate courses so that the requirement of skilled professionals for the rapidly growing Petroleum Industries is fulfilled.

Recommendation No. 17

Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) – Progress in construction work

The Committee was informed that the land for construction of the permanent campus of IIPE was handed over in March, 2023 and the institute entrusted the construction work to the CPWD. The Committee have also been informed that the physical progress of the construction work is 37 per cent and financial progress is merely 30 per cent. Moreover, the scrutiny of the budget figures submitted by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas reveals that the actual expenditure during the last three years were as low as 25 per cent, 19.5 per cent and 53.5 per cent to the BE in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. During 2023-24, only Rs. 90 crore could be utilized against the BE of Rs. 168 crore even after handing over of the land in March, 2023. This shows the slow progress of work for constructing permanent campus of the institute. The Committee recommend the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to monitor and get the pace of the work expedited so that the institute may start operating from their own permanent campus as early as possible.

Recommendation No. 18

Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of Oil PSUs

The committee note that the IEBR of Oil PSUs for BE 2024-25 has been targeted at Rs. 1,18,499 crore as compared to Rs. 1,06,401 crore of the BE 2023-24. The Committee also note that the actual utilisation of the IEBR funds were recorded to be Rs. 1,19,027 crore in 2022-23 and Rs. 1,36,821 crore in 2023-24. During the current FY 2024-25, the BE of Rs. 1,18,499 crore has been targeted, which is less than the actual expenditure of the previous two years.

The Committee also observe that the actual expenditure of individual PSUs during the current financial year upto 31st August 2024 is only Rs. 49,381 crore against the BE of Rs. 1,18,499 crore.

In view of the fact that the demand for petroleum products has been increasing continuously during the last 10 years, the Committee feel that the

country needs to find more crude oil and gas resources and create additional refining capacity and distribution infrastructure to meet growing demand. Further, Oil PSUs need to invest more in energy transition projects to meet net-zero commitments. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the IEBR exercise of the Oil PSUs may be prepared more prudently keeping the need of the sector in mind and the actual utilisation of the funds are monitored properly by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

New Delhi;
11 December, 2024
20 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

Sunil Dattatrey Tatkare,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on
Petroleum & Natural Gas

MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(2024-25)

SECOND SITTING
(17.10.2024)

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 17th October, 2024 from 1130 hrs. to 1400 hrs. in Main Committee Room, PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Sunil Dattatrey Tatkare - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

- 2 Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla
- 3 Shri Benny Behanan
- 4 Shri Maddila Gurumoorthy
- 5 Shri Dileshwar Kamait
- 6 Shri Putta Mahesh Kumar
- 7 Shri Vinod Lakhamshi Chavda
- 8 Shri Laxmikant Pappu Nishad
- 9 Shri Jai Prakash
- 10 Shri Dilip Saikia
- 11 Smt. Kamaljeet Sehwat
- 12 Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal
- 13 Shri Vivek Thakur
- 14 Shri Ve Vaithilingam
- 15 Shri Dharmendra Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

- 16 Shri Chunnilal Garasiya
- 17 Shri Narain Dass Gupta
- 18 Shri Chandrakant Handore
- 19 Shri Manoj Kumar Jha
- 20 Shri Mayankbhai Jaydevbhai Nayak
- 21 Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Y.M. Kandpal - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Brajesh Kumar Singh - Deputy Secretary

Representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

1. Shri Pankaj Jain - Secretary
2. Shri Praveen Mal Khanooja - Additional Secretary
3. Smt. Kamini Ratan Chauhan - Addl. Secretary & FA
4. Smt. Sujata Sharma - Joint Secretary
5. Shri Asheesh Joshi - Joint Secretary
6. Smt. Esha Srivastava - Joint Secretary
7. Shri Rajender Kumar - Economic Advisor
8. Shri Deepak Srivastava - Director
9. Shri Kushagra Mittal - Director
10. Shri Arun Kumar - Director
11. Shri Anand Kumar Jha - Director

Representatives of OIL

1. Dr. Ranjit Rath - CMD

Representatives of GAIL

1. Shri Sandeep Kumar Gupta - CMD

Representatives of EIL

1. Smt. Vartika Shukla - CMD

Representatives of Balmer Lawrie

1. Shri Adhip Nath Palchaudhuri - CMD

Representatives of HPCL

1. Shri Rajneesh Narang - CMD

Representatives of ONGC

1. Shri Vivek C. Tongaonkar - Director (Finance)

Representatives of IOCL

1. Shri Anuj Jain - Director (Finance)

Representatives of BPCL

1. Shri Vesta Ramakrishna Gupta - Director (Finance)

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and apprised them about the agenda of the sitting *i.e.* to have oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas/Oil PSUs on “Demands for Grants (2024-25)” of the Ministry.

3. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry of P&NG/Oil PSUs were called into the sitting for oral evidence before the Committee. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry/Oil PSUs and requested them to introduce themselves and furnish replies to the queries of the Members of the Committee.

4. After customary introduction, the representatives of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas/Oil PSUs gave a power point presentation covering various issues *viz.* Organisational Structure & allocation of business of the Ministry, PSUs/autonomous/attached bodies under the Ministry, important initiatives taken for upstream oil & gas sector, marketing of Petroleum Products, refinery and petrochemical infrastructure, biofuels, SATAT Scheme, Green Hydrogen, Gas Projects, International Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector, Strategic Petroleum Reserves (ISPRL), Investments in Hydrocarbon Sector, Flagship Programmes of the Ministry, detailed Demands for Grants (2024-25), etc.

5. Subsequently, Members of the Committee raised queries on following issues:-
 - (i) methodology of calculating gas subsidy;
 - (ii) gas pipeline leakage in Yanam district, Kakinada;
 - (iii) status of CPCL refinery project in Nagaputtinam, Tamilnadu;
 - (iv) status of exploration activity of ONGC in Cavery Basin at Karaikal;
 - (v) status of action taken on the previous recommendation of Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on transferring back the Department of Chemical and Petrochemicals to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

- (vi) status of action taken on the recommendations of Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas pertaining to formation of single regulatory authority for Oil & Gas Sector;
- (vii) inclusion of petrol and diesel in GST regime;
- (viii) need for establishment of centralized technological research and development;
- (ix) number of PMUY beneficiaries refueling LPG cylinders multiple times and taking full benefits under the scheme and data on number of beneficiaries not taking full benefits of the scheme;
- (x) utilization of CSR funds for research and development;
- (xi) energy transition plan of the government;
- (xii) the timelines of completion of CGD networks in remaining districts;
- (xiii) distribution of Bio-gas through pipeline;
- (xiv) reasons for closure of Bio-diesel pumps in Gujarat;
- (xv) need for registration of requests for refilling of LPG cylinders through distributors;
- (xvi) resolution of farmers issues pertaining to Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline;
- (xvii) need for establishment of Bio-gas plant based on municipal waste;
- (xviii) status of construction of phase-II strategic reserves of ISPRL;
- (xix) reduction of allocation for LPG subsidy in Budget 2024-25 despite volatility in the global energy prices;
- (xx) non-utilization of funds earmarked in budget 2023-24 for filling up strategic crude oil reserves;
- (xxi) high dependency on import of crude oil;
- (xxii) substantial reduction of budget in RE stage and non-utilization of budget earmarked in RE stage;
- (xxiii) under-utilization of budget in first 6 months of FY 2024-25;
- (xxiv) number of green hydrogen plants planned by Oil PSUs;
- (xxv) need for formation of a transparent methodology for determination of prices of petroleum products;
- (xxvi) action being taken by the Ministry to increase the coverage of LPG connections in the country and particularly in rural areas;
- (xxvii) CSR budgets of Oil PSUs and their actual expenditure;

- (xxviii) status of unutilized CSR budget of Oil PSUs;
- (xxix) yearly domestic production and imports of crude oil and natural gas;
- (xxx) actual expenditure under PMUY in FY 2023-24 and expected expenditure in FY 2024-25;
- (xxxi) status of scheme of providing assistance to SC/STs in operation of oil tankers;
- (xxxii) CBM Blocks allocated and operational as on date;
- (xxxiii) status of Jamtara CBM Block;
- (xxxiv) domestic reserves of crude oil and petroleum products in terms of number of days of consumption;
- (xxxv) preparedness of the country to deal with oil shocks;
- (xxxvi) import of natural gas from Sri Lanka;
- (xxxvii) production of arising from geo-political tensions ethanol from municipal waste;
- (xxxviii) use of CSR funds for promotion of sports;
- (xxxix) expected date of completion of Barauni-Raxaul Petroleum Products Pipeline;
- (xl) roadmap for becoming self sufficient in production of crude oil and natural gas;
- (xli) status of PNG connectivity under CGD networks;
- (xlii) plan of the Ministry to increase density of Retail Outlets and LPG distributorships in rural areas;
- (xliii) share of Discovered Small Fields in total crude oil and gas productions;
- (xliv) reduction in subsidy amount by Rs.315 crore in BE 2024-25 from actual expenditure of Rs.12224 crore in FY 2023-24;
- (xlv) reduction in grant-in-aid amount by Rs.57.10 crore in BE 2024-25 against actual expenditure of Rs. 1837.56 crore in FY 2023-24;
- (xlvi) action being taken by the Ministry to protect the country from fluctuations in crude oil prices due to geopolitical tensions;
- (xlvii) complaint redressal system to address complaints pertaining to PNG connections in Delhi;
- (xlviii) sanctioned PMUY connections for the NCT of Delhi;

- (xlix) dispute redressal mechanism to address complaints of owners of Retail Outlets and LPG distributorships;
- (l) enhancement of distributor margin;
- (li) review and rationalisation of marketing discipline guidelines;
- (lii) customer verification process and review of penalties imposed on Retail Outlets and LPG distributorships by Oil Marketing Companies;
- (liii) training and skill development for uniformity in operations of OMCs;
- (liv) problems being faced by PMUY beneficiaries in obtaining LPG connections;
- (lv) meagre private investment in oil and gas sector in last three financial years;
- (lvi) oil industry development cess being imposed on ONGC and OIL;
- (lvii) meagre expenditure on R&D projects of national importance by OI DB/DGH and need for providing budgetary support to R&D projects of national importance, etc.

6. The Members also requested the representatives to increase the penetration of 5 & 10 KG cylinders among common people to increase the number of CNG pumps in the country and to expedite the work of Jamtara CBM Block.

7. The representatives of the Ministry/PSUs furnished clarifications to the queries raised by the Members. On some of the points on which the information was not readily available, the Chairperson asked the representatives to furnish written replies on the same within seven days to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

8. The Chairperson then thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas/Oil PSUs for providing valuable information on "Demands for Grants (2024-25)".

(The witnesses then withdrew)

9. A copy of the verbatim proceedings is kept in the Branch for record.

The Committee then adjourned

MINUTES

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(2024-25)**

**FIFTH SITTING
(09.12.2024)**

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 9th December, 2024 from 1530 hrs. to 1735 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Sunil Dattatrey Tatkare - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

- 2 Shri Maddila Gurumoorthy
- 3 Shri Dileshwar Kamait
- 4 Shri Putta Mahesh Kumar
- 5 Shri Vinod Lakhamshi Chavda
- 6 Shri Laxmikant Pappu Nishad
- 7 Shri Dilip Saikia
- 8 Smt. Kamaljeet Sehrawat
- 9 Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal
- 10 Dr. Amar Singh
- 11 Shri Vivek Thakur
- 12 Shri Parbhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava
- 13 Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy
- 14 Shri Dharmendra Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

- 15 Shri Narain Dass Gupta
- 16 Shri Chandrakant Handore
- 17 Shri Mithlesh Kumar
- 18 Shri Mayankbhai Jaydevbhai Nayak
- 19 Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar
- 20 Dr. V. Sivadasan
- 21 Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Rajesh Ranjan Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Sujay Kumar - Deputy Secretary
3. Shri Brajesh Kumar Singh - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration the draft report on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Some hon. Members made certain suggestions to the draft recommendations of the Committee. The report was then adopted with slight modifications in the recommendations.

3. The Committee then authorised the Chairperson to finalize the Report and present/lay the Report in both the Houses of Parliament.

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The Committee then adjourned.

The mandate of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is given below:

1. Exploration and exploitation of petroleum resources, including natural gas and Coal Bed Methane, gas hydrates and shale gas.
2. Production, supply, distribution, marketing and pricing of petroleum, including natural gas, Coal Bed Methane and petroleum products.
3. Oil refineries, including Lube Plants.
4. Additives for petroleum and petroleum products.
 - (i) Overall coordination concerning bio-fuels;
 - (ii) National Policy on Bio-fuels;
 - (iii) Marketing, distribution and retailing of bio-fuels and its blended products;
 - (iv) Policy/Scheme for supporting manufacturing of bio-fuels;
 - (v) Blending and blending prescriptions for bio-fuels including laying down the standards for such blending;
 - (vi) Setting up of a National Bio-fuel Development Board and strengthening the existing institutional mechanism; and
 - (vii) Research, development and demonstration on transport, stationary and other applications of bio-fuels.
5. Blending and blending prescriptions for bio-fuels including laying down the standards for such blending.
6. Marketing, distribution and retailing of bio-fuels and its blended products.
7. Tube Blending and greases.
8. Conservation of Petroleum products.
9. Planning, development, control and assistance to all industries dealt with by the Ministry.
10. Strengthening energy security by acquiring oil and gas equity abroad and participation in transnational oil and gas pipeline projects.
11. Creation and administration of strategic petroleum reserve through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).
12. Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).
13. All attached or subordinate offices or other organization concerned with any of the subjects specified in the list, including Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), Centre for High Technology (CHT), Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), etc.

14. Planning, development and regulation of oilfield services.
15. Administration of Engineers India Limited, including their subsidiaries and joint ventures.
16. Public sector project falling under the subject included in this list except such projects which are specifically allotted to any other Ministry / Department.
17. The Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 (53 of 1948).
18. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of undertaking and Repeal) Act, 1993 (65 of 1993).
19. The Petroleum Pipelines (Acquisition of right of User in Land) Act, 1962 (50 of 1962).
20. The ESSSO (Acquisition of Undertaking in India) Act, 1974 (4 of 1974).
21. The Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974 (47 of 1974).
22. The Burmah – Shell (Acquisition of Undertaking in India) Act. 1976 (2 of 1976).
23. The Caltex (Acquisition of Shares of Caltex Oil Refining (India) Limited and of the Undertaking in India of Caltex (India) Limited Act, 1977.
24. Administration of the Petroleum Act, 1934 (30 of 1934) and the rules made thereunder.
25. Administration of Balmer Lawrie Investment Limited and Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited.
26. Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Act, 2006.
27. Matter pertaining to M/s Bienco Lawrie Limited
28. Matters pertaining to Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL).
29. Matter pertaining to natural gas pipelines.
30. Matter pertaining to LNG terminals.
31. The Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGIPT) Act, 2007
32. Matter pertaining to Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy (IIPe), Act 2017 (3 of 2018)
33. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000.
34. Matter pertaining to Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (DBTL) PAHAL.
35. Matter pertaining to Direct Benefit Transfer in Kerosene (DBTK).
36. Matter pertaining to Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

Annexure - II

State/UT	No. of connections released under PMUY in 2023-24	Total no. of connections released under PMUY as on 31.03.2024
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	383	13,827
Andhra Pradesh	4,55,997	9,68,332
Arunachal Pradesh	4,544	53,789
Assam	6,77,955	50,92,071
Bihar	8,85,019	1,16,19,851
Chandigarh	1,366	2,025
Chhattisgarh	2,93,324	37,85,197
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	2,795	17,812
Delhi	1,14,936	2,56,931
Goa	692	1,956
Gujarat	4,62,062	43,04,694
Haryana	3,45,912	11,12,992
Himachal Pradesh	10,089	1,50,837
Jammu & Kashmir	25,324	12,69,743
Jharkhand	2,49,411	38,95,366
Karnataka	3,91,934	41,48,108
Kerala	46,564	3,87,761
Ladakh	2	11,089
Lakshadweep	61	365
Madhya Pradesh	6,05,761	88,32,154
Maharashtra	3,27,823	52,15,785
Manipur	22,970	2,24,999
Meghalaya	1,01,774	3,16,624
Mizoram	2,436	36,031
Nagaland	30,324	1,22,199
Odisha	2,26,972	55,47,343
Puducherry	4,485	19,322
Punjab	75,928	13,59,705
Rajasthan	4,51,692	73,77,084
Sikkim	6,116	19,911
Tamil Nadu	3,97,716	41,01,978
Telangana	32,890	11,85,624
Tripura	31,959	3,15,462
Uttar Pradesh	10,90,440	1,85,92,478
Uttarakhand	33,756	5,30,167
West Bengal	6,107	1,23,76,395