

**FIFTY-FOURTH REPORT  
COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS  
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS**

**(Presented to Lok Sabha on 19.12.2023)**



**सत्यमेव जयते**

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

***December 2023/Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)***

**CPB No. 1 Vol. LIV**

**© 2023 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Sixteenth Edition).**

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS .....	(ii)
INTRODUCTION.....	(iii)

### REPORT

Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) in their Thirty-Fifth Report on the representation of Shri Tokhehe Yephthomi for increasing the capacity of LPG Bottling Plants, Compressed Natural Gas Stations in the North-Eastern States, especially in Guwahati and other important issues related therewith.	1
---	---

### ANNEXURE

Minutes of the 30 <sup>th</sup> sitting of the Committee on Petitions held on 18.12.2023.	21
---	----

(i)

## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Shri Harish Dwivedi - *Chairperson*

### MEMBERS

2. Shri Anto Antony
3. Shri Hanuman Beniwal \*
4. Prof. Sanjay Sadashivrao Mandlik
5. Shri P. Ravindhranath
6. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
7. Shri Brijendra Singh
8. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
9. Shri Sushil Kumar Singh
10. Shri Manoj Kumar Tiwari
11. Shri Prabhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava
12. Shri Rajan Baburao Vichare
13. Shri Bharat Ram Margani
14. Vacant
15. Vacant

### SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Raju Srivastava - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Tenzin Gyaltzen - Deputy Secretary

---

\* *Resigned his Lok Sabha seat w.e.f. 15.12.2023.*

## FIFTY-FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

### INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Committee on Petitions, having been authorised by the Committee to present on their behalf, this Fifty-Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee to the House on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) in their Thirty-Fifth Report on the representation of Shri Tokhehe Yepthomi for increasing the capacity of LPG Bottling Plants, Compressed Natural Gas Stations in the North-Eastern States, especially in Guwahati and other important issues related therewith.

2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Fifty-Fourth Report at their sitting held on 18 December, 2023.

3. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the above matters have been included in the Report.

**NEW DELHI;**

**18 December, 2023**

**27 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)**

**HARISH DWIVEDI**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Committee on Petitions**

## REPORT

### **ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) IN THEIR THIRTY FIFTH REPORT ON THE REPRESENTATION RECEIVED FROM SHRI TOKHEHE YEPHTHOMI FOR INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF LPG BOTTLING PLANTS, COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS STATIONS IN THE NORTH-EASTERN STATES, ESPECIALLY IN GUWAHATI AND OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES RELATED THEREWITH.**

The Committee on Petitions (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) presented their Thirty Fifth Report to Lok Sabha on 13 December, 2022 on the representation received from Shri Tokhehe Yepthomi for increasing the capacity of LPG Bottling Plants, Compressed Natural Gas Stations in the North-Eastern States, especially in Guwahati and other important issues related therewith.

2. The Committee had made certain observations/recommendations in the matter and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas were asked to implement the recommendations and requested to furnish their action taken notes thereon for further consideration of the Committee.

3. Action Taken Notes have since been received from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in respect of all the observations/recommendations contained in the aforesaid Report. The recommendations made by the Committee and the replies furnished thereto by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are detailed in the succeeding paragraphs.

4. In paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows:-

#### *"Overview of the Primary Energy Mix*

*The Committee note from the submission of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, GAIL, etc. that energy is one of the major inputs for the economic development of a country. In the context of our country, the committee acknowledge that energy sector assumes a critical importance in view of its ever increasing energy needs, thereby, requiring huge investment to meet them. Further, the energy consumption in the country has more than doubled since 2000 propelled upwards due to growing population and rapid economic growth with India's primary energy consumption up to the year 2020 positioned with coal at 54.8%, oil 28.2% natural gas 6.7%, nuclear 1.3%, hydro 4.5% and other renewable at 4.5%.*

The Committee also observe that over 80% of India's energy needs is met by only three fuels, viz., coal, oil and solid biomass leading to India, being the second largest producer of coal in the world and coal's dominant use in its power generation followed by the industrial sector. The Committee further note that oil's share in primary energy mix stands at about 28% with the transport sector, being the largest user of oil with share of natural gas in India's primary mix about 6.7% with fertilizer sector being the largest user of gas in the country. The Committee note with concern that traditional biomass which is primarily fuel wood along with animal waste and charcoal, used to be the largest energy source in India upto the year 2000 after coal and although the overall energy demand has doubled since then, still the share of traditional biomass in the energy mix has been declining largely due to the efforts made to improve the access to modern cooking, transportation and industrial fuels, in particular LPG/CNG/H-CNG and other green options. Therefore, while highlighting the positive impact of timely and effective utilization of modern and clean fuels such as LPG and CNG, etc., on the lives of people, thereby, bringing down pollution and carbon footprint, the Committee desire that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas along with the OMCs should formulate a comprehensive long term Green Fuel Policy which envisages reducing the dependency on conventional sources of energy while promoting the use of environment-friendly and renewable sources of energy."

5. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, in their action taken reply, have submitted as follows:-

"As per BP World Energy Stats-2022, share of natural gas in Indian primary energy consumption basket is 6.32%. Consumption of various energy sources and their share in primary energy mix in India is as per table below:

Year-2021	Oil	Natural Gas	Coal	Nuclear Energy	Hydro electric	Renewables	Total
India	9.41	2.24	20.09	0.4	1.51	1.79	35.43
Share in energy basket (in %)	26.56	6.32	56.7	1.13	4.26	5.05	100

This Ministry had notified the National Policy of Biofuels-2018 which aims to increase usage of bio fuels in the energy and transportation sectors of the country during the coming decade. The policy aims to utilize, develop and promote domestic feed stocks and its utilization for production of biofuels thereby increasingly substitute fossil fuels while contributing to National Energy Security, Climate Change mitigation, apart from creating new employment opportunities in a sustainable way. Simultaneously, the policy will also encourage the application of advance technologies for generation of bio fuels."

6. In paragraphs 20, 21 and 22 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows:-

*“Capacity augmentation of LPG bottling plants in NE States along with the inability of the existing output to meet the increasing requirement.*

*The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and OMCs should work in tandem towards increasing its foothold and endeavour to meet the future demand of entire NE region to the extent of same being surplus which could well be utilized to supply LPG, etc to other regions of the country, whenever required. The Committee also desire that for expansion of LPG bottling plants, under both Greenfield and Brownfield, capacity augmentation methods should be resorted to keeping in view the sound financial outlook and cost effectiveness as top-most priority. The Committee would like to be appraised of the steps initiated in this regard with three months of the presentation of this Report to the House.”*

7. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, in their action taken reply, have submitted as follows:-

*“LPG demand in North-Eastern states of country has gone up significantly and has grown at Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.6 % during last 8 years. Accordingly, in order to cater to increasing LPG demand, the capacity augmentation at LPG Bottling Plants in North-East Region have also been carried out in the same period at a CAGR of 8.0% with details as under:-*

	Period	Bottling Capacity (TMTPA)				Packed LPG Demand (TMTPA)			
		IOCL	BPCL	HPCL	Total	IOCL	BPCL	HPCL	Total
North East (incl. Assam)	2014	417	60	0	477	365.5	19.5	5.8	390.8
	2022	784	66	30	880	610.0	64.6	28.0	702.6
	Increase	367	6	30	403	244.5	45.1	22.2	311.8
	Increase (%)	88.0	10%	—	84.5%	66.9%	231.3%	383%	80
Assam	2014	303	60	0	363	242.5	18.7	5.8	267.0
	2022	593	66	30	689	421	61.8	27.6	510.4
	Increase	290	6	30	326	151	43.1	21.8	215.9
	Increase (%)	95.7%	10%	—	89.8	62	231	376	81

*The status of Industry Bottling capacity vis a vis demand in North- East is as follows:*

State	Period	Details for Industry			
		Bottling Capacity in TMTPA	Demand in TMTPA	Surplus Capacity in TMTPA	% Surplus of Demand
North east (including	2014	477	390.8	86.2	22.06%



Assam)	2022	880	702.6	177.4	25.25%
	2014	363	267	96	35.96%
Assam	2022	689	510.4	178.6	34.99%

**Bottling Capacity Augmentation in North-East planned by OMCs**

**A. Approved Projects**

- a. IOCL is coming up with Bottling Plant at Umium (Meghalaya) with capacity of 30 TMTPA.
- b. BPCL is coming up with Bottling Plant at Matia (Assam) with capacity of 30 TMTPA.
- c. NRL is putting up a new LPG Plant at Dabidubi, Golaghat, Assam in line with the refinery expansion which will have a bottling capacity of 120 TMTPA.

As a result of which the total Bottling Capacity in North-East (including Assam) shall increase to 1060 TMTPA from existing 880 TMTPA

**Projects under approval/finalization**

- a. Proposal for Razing & Rebuilding of 30 TMTPA IOCL LPG Bottling Plant at Mualkhang in State of Mizoram.
- b. For seeking bottling assistance from 12 TMTPA plant in state of Arunachal Pradesh, interview of successful bidder has been conducted and physical verification will be carried out in March 2023.

Upon approval / finalization of Project at A & B above, the total Bottling Capacity in North-East (including Assam) shall increase to 1102 TMTPA and the additional capacity is expected to be available by end of 2026.

**Availability of Bottling capacity in NE including Assam after planned capacity augmentation.**

Considering all above, the Bottling Capacity for OMC in North-East including Assam after completion of ongoing projects for capacity augmentation and planned projects shall be as under:

S. No.	State	Bottling Capacity (TMTPA)									Remarks
		Existing				Upcoming			Total		
		IOC	BPC	HPC	Total	IOC	BPC	HPC	Total	G.Total	
1.	Assam	593	66	30	689	0	150 (incl NRL)	0	150	839	Including Bottling from OIL India at Dulaijan, Pvt Bottlers of 30 TMTPA at Nagoan Included and upcoming BPCL BP at Matia Assam and new NRL plant at Dabidubi
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	12	12	Through Pvt Bottler
3.	Manipur	60	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	60	Capacity considering double shift operation
4.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	30	30	Under construction Mechanical construction likely by December 2023
5.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	30	30	Estimates under preparation
6.	Nagaland	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	11	
7.	Tripura	120	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	120	Capacity considering double shift operation
Total		784	66	30	880	72	150	0	222	1102	

### Supply Demand Balance of LPG in North -Eastern states

The supply demand analysis of packed LPG in NE states including Assam is as follows

	Particulars	2023-24	2024-25	2029-30	2034-35	2039-40
1	Industry Bottling Capacity in TMTPA	880	982	1102	1102	1102
2	Achievable Capacity as on 1st April (TMTPA)- (120% of rated capacity)	1056	1178.4	1322.4	1322.4	1322.4
3	Demand Projection Industry - by PPAC	726.95	777.96	886.56	1002.07	1097.83
4	Shortfall / Excess in Achievable Capacity vis-à-vis Demand (TMT) - Industry	350.65	420.04	457.44	341.93	246.17

Hence, existing Bottling Capacity in the North-East Region is already higher than current demand and the same will increase significantly with new Bottling Plants as mentioned

above. Moreover, Bottling Capacity augmentation, greenfield or brownfield, is a continuous process and is augmented based on demand trends in the region."

8. In paragraphs 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows:-

"Dismal presence of CNG/H-CNG station in the NE Region along with slow progress towards increasing the number of CNG stations"

The Committee also acknowledge the fact that IOCL has expressed their keenness regarding increasing its presence with respect to the CNG stations at its Retail Outlets (ROs) in NE Region through offering space at its existing ROs to the authorized CGD companies having allotted Geographical Areas (GAs) in NE Region. The Committee note with concern that as on April, 2022, the number of IOCL ROs having CNG facilities in NE states (including Sikkim) stands at a conservative 14 ROs, all of which are located in Tripura. The Committee with respect to HPCL are constrained to note that there has been uneven and unsystematic distribution of their respective Stations/Centers/ROs across the NE Region. The Committee while appreciating the keenness express by IOCL regarding its commitment to increase CNG stations across North East feel that a lot of ground needs to be covered towards achieving and establishing a comprehensive network across the region. The Committee desire that IOCL should chalk out a time-bound plan towards achieving even distribution of CNG ROs in the region and ensure timely supplies of their facilities to the public/end users/consumers.

The Committee opine that in long run, CNG/H – CNG is accepted globally as a cost-efficient, environment friendly and low carbon alternative for clean energy transition and , therefore, with respect to grid balancing capabilities, a natural gas- based power has inherent benefits of quick ramp-up/ramp-down and thus providing option of integration of increasing renewable sources across the country. The Committee also note that although the Government is making concerted efforts to shift towards a gas-based economy to increase the share of natural gas from the current 6.7% to 15% by 2030 and, thereby, developing a nation-wide gas grid including other gas infrastructure, city gas distribution network and de-gasification terminals. Apart from this, various long-term policy initiatives are also required to be taken through policy interventions, monetary and subsidy support by the Government to promote and encourage use of CNG/H-CNG, especially across the NE region.

The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government through focused policy measures ensuring that NE region has adequate availability of CNG/H-CNG by providing a mix of domestic gas and also imports ( if feasible) through integrated development of natural

gas grid and import terminals. The Committee further recommend that the Government along with all stakeholders also explore OMCs measures to augment the availability of CNG and H-CNG through unconventional routes, viz, Bio-fuels, Coal Gasification, Hydrogen Production, etc, which could lead towards wider adoption of gas end users/customers and also ensure a cleaner environment with a decreased carbon footprint. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to cooperate and work along with all OMCs like IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, GAIL etc towards ensuring production, even distribution and augmenting capacities for a better availability of CNG/H-CNG across the entire NE region. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the steps initiated on all the above mentioned aspects within three months of the presentation of this Report to the House."

9. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, in their action taken reply, have submitted as follows:-

"CNG is marketed by CGD companies based on their GA allocation. These CGD companies conduct viability of CNG sales at the OMC Retail Outlets & would put up CNG facilities at the outlets found feasible. During 9<sup>th</sup> (Oct'18) and 11<sup>th</sup> (Apr'22) round of bidding, the winning CGD entities have committed a total of 580 Nos. of CNG Stations in the States of Tripura & Assam.

Further, IOCL does not have any GA allotted in NE States & Assam. However, IOCL has 58% market participation in CNG stations in Northeast States. Currently, there are total 31 CNG selling stations on Industry basis in NE states out of which IOCL has 18 Nos. CNG Stations i.e., 58% of participation among Industry members. At the beginning of the current FY, 36 No. of OMC ROs were identified for CNG addition out of which IOCL got 24 Nos. Retail outlets. The CGD Co wise details are mentioned below:

- (i) AGCL – 11 Nos (Dist. of Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Golaghat, Sibs agar, Tinsukia)
- (ii) PBGPL (Purba Bharati Gas Pvt Ltd) - 10 (Dist. of Cachar, Kamrup Metro & Kamrup Rural)
- (iii) TNGCL – 3 (Dist. of West Tripura)

The Government has taken various steps to promote CGD infrastructure in the country. PNGRB has authorized 300 Geographical Areas (GA) to various entities (Public and Private sector) who are entrusted with to develop CGD infrastructure in the respective GAs. Entire Assam and Tripura have been authorized by PNGRB for development of CDG Infrastructure. PNGRB has been requested to initiate bidding for development of CGD infrastructure for remaining states of North East states. Based on techno-

commercial feasibility, CGD infrastructure shall be developed in various parts of the North East States.

Further, to promote CGD infrastructure, Government has accorded top priority to CNG (T) and PNG (D) for allocation of domestic gas. Recently, Government has revised domestic natural gas pricing guidelines for gas produced from nomination fields of ONGC/OIL, New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) blocks and pre-NELP blocks, where Production Sharing Contract (PSC) provides for Government's approval of prices. The price of such natural gas shall be 10% of the monthly average of Indian Crude Basket and shall be notified on a monthly basis. For the gas produced by ONGC & OIL from their nomination blocks, the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price shall be subject to a floor and a ceiling. The reforms will lead to significant decrease in prices of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport and encourage use of CNG across the country including the NE states. PNGRB has recently notified unified Tariff for NG pipelines which will result in lower delivered price of gas to customers in NE States.

Further, all entire NE states are being connected by NG pipelines being laid by GAIL and Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL). North East Gas Grid (NEGG) is being developed by IGGL for which Govt of India has approved a VGF of 60 % amounting to Rs 5,559 Crs. With the completion of NEGG and Barauni-Guwahati Pipeline, all NE states shall be connected to national gas grid and various LNG terminals in the country. Proposal for expanding the NEGG is under consideration of the Ministry.

In order to increase availability of gas in the country, the govt has launched "Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)" initiative on 1st October, 2018 to promote production and uses of CBG wherein Oil and Gas marketing companies invite expression of interests from entrepreneurs to set up CBG plants and to procure the produced CBG for further marketing. MoPNG has issued policy guidelines for co-mingling of CBG with Natural Gas in CGD network. During this year's budget announcement, it was announced that a 5 per cent CBG mandate will be introduced for all organizations marketing natural gas in due course."

10. In paragraphs 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 of the Report, the Committee had observed/recommended as follows:-

"Laying of Natural Gas Pipeline under North East Gas Grid (NEGG) and its connectivity (also under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board-PNGRB)

The Committee further note that Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL), a Joint Venture Company (JVC) of IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) with equity contribution, has been entrusted by the Government for the implementation of the prestigious North East Gas Grid (NEGG) project at an estimated cost of Rs 9,265 crore. The 1656 Km long natural gas pipeline grid with a design capacity of 4.75 mmscmd (Million Standard Cubic Meters of Gas per day) is being implemented to connect all the eight Northeastern states i.e. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur & Sikkim to the National Gas Grid vide the Barauni-Guwahati pipeline being implemented by GAIL as a part of Urja Ganga Scheme. The Committee also note that the Grid will also be connected to the sustainable and viable gas sources of the North East.

The Committee appreciate the fact that with regard to the Cachar, Hailakandi&Karimgang Districts GA, PBGPL is currently purchasing Natural Gas through GAIL from ONGC, and has already started selling Piped Natural Gas to around 382 households. The Committee keeping in view the progress made, till date, further desire that PBGPL should ensure regular and uninterrupted gas supply along with ensuring and increasing its footprint over the said GA as per stated objectives and plan. The Committee further note that the Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited (TNGCL), a JVC between GAIL (India) Limited, Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd ( A Govt of Tripura Undertaking) and Assam Gas Company Limited ( A Govt. of Assam Undertaking), is authorized by PNGRB for the GAs of Agartala, Gomati, and West Tripura and are contented to note that TNGCL has established a total of 24 CNG stations in the aforementioned 3 GAs and also providing PNG to 54,724 domestic household that includes 44,738 households in Agartala and 9,986 households in West Tripura District. The Committee express its concern regarding the issue of development of steel network and PNG connectivity to Gomati District which is yet to be started as TNGCL is yet to receive PNGRB specified dry gas required for CGD expansion. The Committee are constrained to note that only after getting the dry gas, the work of DPNG connections to the Gomati Districts will commence and TNGCL will be able to provide further 11,514 DPNG connections in Gomati District as per Minimum Work Program (MWP) committed to PNGRB. The Committee desire that all the Agencies concerned should ramp up its operation towards timely completion and development of Steel network and PNG connectivity along with scheduled delivery of dry gas essential for CGD expansion.

The Committee further acknowledge that the North-East Gas Grid project is being implemented in three phase (s) based on the requirement of statutory clearances, route terrain, linkage with Highway corridor widening works, difficulty in work execution, etc. The Committee are of the view that successful culmination of NEGG would go a long way towards leveraging the north east region's full hydrocarbon potential along with enhancing easy access of clean fuels to Industrial, Commercial, Domestic Household,

and Transportation Sectors and also facilitating to boost Industrial and economic development in entire north east region.

The Committee also acknowledge the inherent difficulties with regard to NEGG project since the pipeline grid will traverse through challenging terrains of North East India to connect the state Capitals/ major cities of Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya and also to Sikkim. Further, about a third of the entire pipeline route shall be traversing through the treacherous hilly terrains in the States of Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya. The Committee also note that due to the typical nature of hilly terrain, some sections of the pipelines are being laid only along the highway which also poses a challenge due to its restricted width and non-availability of any corridor along the highway. Besides, in some sections, pipeline laying might have to wait for the completion of road widening work. The Committee would like to place its appreciation for the hard work and dedication being put in to ensure the success of NEGG project. In this context, the Committee would recommend that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas under the aegis of Union Government should cooperate with the State Governments of North Eastern States to resolve various roadblocks such as delay in forest clearances, permission from Public Works Department (PWD) etc where the pipeline is supposed to be laid. The Committee also desire that since the pipeline shall be encountering five major rivers and also forest areas, proper care must be ensured so that the natural habit including the flora and fauna of the area are not disturbed. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard within three months of the presentation of this Report to the House."

11. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, in their action taken reply, have submitted as follows:-

*"The NEGG project is under implementation by IGGL as per schedule without any time or cost overrun.*

*The NEGG has achieved a physical progress of 67.53 % out of the scheduled progress of 68.11 % as on 12.03.2023. The actual expenditure as on 15.03.2023 is Rs 3809.75 Crore and commitment is Rs 7245 Crore.*

*The NEGG is being connected to 05 nos. of ONGC sources of Jorhat asset, Banaskandi EPS & GGS source of ONGC in Assam, Khubal source of ONGC and Tulamura source of OIL in Tripura.*

Further, GAIL is executing Natural Gas Pipeline project from Barauni to Guwahati via Siliguri & Bongaigaon (BGPL), as an integral part of Jagdishpur Haldia & Bokaro Dhamra Pipeline (JHBDPL) project also popularly known as "Pradhan Mantri Urja Gaᅅga Project", to connect North East Region (NER) with the National Gas Grid. The approx. length of the pipeline is 726 km having capacity of 2.5 MMSCMD with an anticipated project cost of Rs. 3308 crores.

The Barauni-Guwahati Pipeline passes 6 districts (Begusarai, Khagaria, Madhepura, Purnia, Araria and Kishanganj) in the state of Bihar (283 Km), 5 districts (Uttar Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch Bihar) in the state of West Bengal (189 Km) and 9 districts (Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Nalbari, Kamrup, Darrang and Kamrup Metropolitan) in state of Assam (254 Km).

Progresses made in the project with completion schedule are as below.

Sl. No.	Project Details	State Covered	Length (Km)	Status/Progress
1	Barauni-Guwahati Pipeline  Total Length – 726 Km	Bihar	283	Overall Physical Progress: 96.4%  Construction Status (726 Km): Welding: 725 Km Lowering: 719 Km Construction Status in Assam (254 Km): Welding: 253 Km Lowering: 247 Km
		West Bengal	189	
		Assam	254	

S. No	Geographical Area	State/ Union Territory	Authorised CGD Entity	Date of Authorisation	Date of Target Completion	PNG Domestic Connections (Nos.)			CNG Stations (Nos.)			Pipeline (inch-Km)		
						Total MWP target	MWP Target as on 31.03.2023	Achievement as on 31.03.2023	Total MWP target	MWP Target as on 31.03.2023	Achievement as on 31.03.2023	Total MWP target	MWP Target as on 31.03.2023	Achievement as on 31.03.2023
1	Cachar, Hailakandi & Karimganj Districts	Assam	PurbaB harti Gas Private Limited	27-Sep-18	31-Mar-30	95,001	0	546	21	0	0	751	38	95
2	Kamrup & Kamrup Metropolitan Districts	Assam	PurbaB harti Gas Private Limited	26-Sep-18	30-Sep-28	3,21,001	48,150	0	51	11	1	961	288	50
3	Gomati District	Tripura	Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited	28-Sep-18	30-Sep-28	11,514	1,727	442	6	1	6	170	51	18



4	West Tripura (EAAA) District	Tripura	Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited	28-Sep-18	30-Sep-28	15,800	2,370	12,969	6	1	6	60	18	28
5	Agartala	Tripura	Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited	24-Feb-15	NA	NA	NA	45,720	NA	NA	6	NA	NA	38

The construction activities of all the three Phases are in full swing with the completion of 685 Km of welding and 556 Km lowering.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Central & State governments are providing continuous support and guidance in resolving the bottlenecks and realizing IGGL's objective of expeditiously implementing the NEGG project. However, despite the relentless efforts and continuous support extended by the Central & State governments, the progress of the NEGG is adversely affected by the hindrances/issues/delays in approval (as on 15.03.2023) are as given below:

Construction activities for the critical chainage 0-3 Km of the priority Guwahati-Numaligarh pipeline are under halt in the villages of Bhomalahati, Gog & Barpalaha under the North Guwahati Revenue Circle of Kamrup district due to obstruction of work by the local people to meet their demand of a revised rate against the Government declared land rate and also for allotment of the Government and to them for availing the RoU compensation.

FIR for the obstructions was filed on 14.12.2022 at PS, Baihata Chariali from IGGL as per the advice from the state Govt. The revised land rate has been received and the land allotment proposals are placed in the SDLAC meeting for approval. Approval is awaited.

The land compensation to patta lands and crop & zirat compensations to both patta and govt lands falling in the mentioned villages were disbursed against pipeline RoU acquisition through 3(1) & 6(1) gazetted notifications as per P&MP Act, 1962. But the people of those villages are demanding land compensation for the govt. Land occupied, Presently lowering is balance between Ch 365 Km to Ch 366 Km and at Ch 369 Km for about 1 Km. Although DC, Golaghat has processed for de-reserving the said land to the Assam Govt, but process will take time.

Delay in permanent acquisition of land for 01 RT in Arunachal Pradesh for Gohpntanagar section. DC, Papum Pare District was approached for support in the acquisition

of land for RT in Chimphu region. No plot of land can be identified and acquired till date as the entire area falls under Reserve Forest, even though the possession is with private persons. If no suitable plot for RT can be identified in Chimphu region, then the pipeline has to be terminated in proposed.

RoU issues for laying the Panisagar-Agartala section and permanent acquisition of land for Stations and Terminals in Tripura. Difficulty in ROU compensation disbursement due to non-acceptance of the Government notified rates by the affected land owners and also non-availability of legitimate documents with the majority of the land owners. A revised land rate is demanded by the land owners against the Government declared land rate in West Tripura. Public hearing completed at 2 Nos. of village in Unakoti. For rest of the villages in Unakoti Competent Authority Tripura will fix date for public hearing by March 2023. Construction activities are halted in Dhalai & West Tripura due to the non-cooperation of the affected landowners.

Forest clearance for 37 ha forest in Tripura for Agartala-Tulamura pipeline. Application submitted on 25.06.2022. In principle/Stage-I approval is awaited.

Delay in permission for laying the Dimapur-Kohima-Imphal section in the ROW of NH-39 from Phesama to Mao gate in Nagaland for 19 Km i.e. Km 193.240 to Km 212.334. In-principle approval was obtained on 18.10.2021. Application was submitted to PWD-NH on 03.08.2022 and a Joint survey was done on 12.08.2022. Proposal submitted by PWD-NE to MORTH, RO Guwahati on 27.10.2022."

## OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

### Overview of the Primary Energy Mix

12. While perusing the submission of the Ministry Petroleum and Natural Gas, IOCL, BPCL, HPCL and GAIL, etc., the Committee had noted that energy is one of the major inputs for ensuring rapid economic development of the country. The Committee while acknowledging its critical importance with regard to the ever increasing energy needs, pointed out the requirement of huge investment to achieve such milestones. In this context, the Committee had further noted that the energy consumption across the country had more than doubled since the year 2000 and has been increasing upwards due to the demand of growing population and continuous economic growth with India's primary energy consumption mix standing with Coal at 54.8%, Oil at 28.2%, Natural Gas at 6.7%, Nuclear at 1.3%, Hydro at 4.5% and other renewals at 4.5% up to the year 2020. The Committee specifically observed that over 80% of India's energy requirement is met by three fuels with coal, oil and solid biomass, along with the Oil's share in primary energy mix at about 28% while the share of Natural Gas at about 6.7%.

13. The Committee had expressed their concern regarding the usage of traditional biomass, being the primary fuel wood along with animal waste and charcoal after coal (*up to the year 2000*). Further, the Committee while highlighting the positive impact of timely and effective utilization of modern and clean fuels such as LPG and CNG, etc., towards bringing down the share of traditional biomass in the energy mix and its consequent positive impact on the lives of people, had desired that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas along with OMCs should formulate a comprehensive long term 'Green Fuel Policy' which would fasten the reduction of dependency on conventional sources of energy, while promoting and increasing the use of environment friendly and renewable sources of energy. In this regard, the Ministry have stated that they have notified the National Policy of Bio-fuels 2018, with an aim to increase the usage

of bio-fuels in the energy and transportation sectors of the country during the coming decade. The Ministry have further stated that the respective policy aims to utilize, develop and promote the domestic feed stocks and its utilization for production of bio-fuels, thereby progressively substituting the fossil fuels.

14. The Committee therefore desire and reiterate that the Ministry must ensure timely implementation of the principles and policies of the National Policy of Bio-fuels-2018 in the right earnest. Further, the Committee, in its original report, had pointed out the positive impact of timely and effective realization of modern and clean fuels, viz., LPG/CNG, etc., and therefore, on these lines would again like to urge the Ministry to continuously work towards national energy security, climate change mitigation while creating new employment opportunities and sustainable development for a comprehensive growth in the sphere of economy environment and employment.

Capacity augmentation of LPG bottling plants in NE States along with the inability of the existing output to meet the increasing requirements

15. The Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and OMCs to work towards increasing its foothold, and endeavor to meet the future demands of the entire NE region. The Committee had further desired the expansion of LPG bottling plants under both Greenfield and Brownfield capacity augmentation methods keeping in view the sound financial outlook and cost effectiveness as a top most priority. The Ministry, in their action taken replies, have stated that the LPG demand in NE states of the country has gone up significantly and has grown at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.6% during the last eight years. Further, they have also stated that in order to cater to the increasing LPG demand, the capacity augmentation and LPG bottling plants in NE region have also been carried out in the same period at a CAGR of 8.0%. The Committee are satisfied to note from the action taken replies that NE

region (including Assam) has increased its bottling capacity (TMTPA) by 84.5% from 2014 – 2022 (which included companies viz., IOCL, BPCL and HPCL), while the packed LPG demand (TMTPA) has witnessed a total increase of 80% from 2014 – 2022.

16. The Committee on further perusal of the replies note that the status of industry bottling capacity vis-à-vis the demand in NE sector has a surplus of 22.06%. The Committee further note that with regard to the approved projects for augmentation of bottling capacity planned by OMC's in the NE, IOCL is coming up with a bottling plant at Umium in Meghalaya with a capacity of 30 TMTPA, while BPCL is coming up with a bottling plant at Matia in Assam with a capacity of 30 TMTPA. NRL is also in the process of putting up a new LPG plant at Dabidubi, Gola Ghat Assam in line with the refinery expansion, which will have a bottling capacity of 120 TMTPA. Further, regarding the projects under approval/finalization stage, a proposal for raising and rebuilding of 30 TMTPA IOCL LPG bottling plant at Mualkhang in state of Mizoram is also under process. The Committee have also been informed that for seeking bottling assistance from 12 TMTPA plant in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, interview of successful bidders have been conducted and physical verification was carried out in March 2023. Therefore, upon approval and finalization of the aforementioned projects, the total bottling capacity in NE including Assam shall increase to 1102 TMTPA and such additional capacity is expected to be available by the end of 2026.

17. The Committee note from the demand-supply analysis of packed LPG in the NE states including Assam that the existing bottling capacity in the NE region is already higher than current demand and the same will increase significantly with the establishment of new bottling plants. Further, the Ministry have stated that bottling capacity augmentation, greenfield or brownfield, is a continuous process and is augmented on the basis of demand-trends in the region. The Committee are satisfied with

regard to the initiatives taken by the Ministry and OMCs, which projects an overall optimistic scenario. The Committee are of the opinion that the existing higher bottling capacity in the NE region could be utilized by supplying the same to other regions/areas after fulfilling the demand of NE regions and the revenue so earned could be utilized for the development of the NE region.

**Dismal presence of CNG/H-CNG station in the NE Region along with slow progress towards increasing the number of CNG stations**

18. The Committee had noted with concern that as on April 2022, the number of IOCL RO's having CNG facilities in NE states including Sikkim stands at a conservative 14 ROs, all of which are located in Tripura. Further, the Committee had also expressed its reservation regarding uneven and unsystematic distribution of their respective stations/centers/ROs across the NE region. Although, the Committee, while appreciating the keenness expressed by the IOCL regarding its commitment to increase CNG stations across NE States, had observed that a lot of ground needs to be covered towards achieving and establishing a comprehensive network across the region. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that IOCL should chalk out a time bound plan towards achieving even distribution of CNG ROs in the region and ensure timely supplies of their products to the public/end-users/consumers.

19. The Ministry, in their action taken replies, have stated that CNG is marketed by CGD companies based on their GA allocation, and these CGD companies, conduct viability of CNG sales at the OMC retail outlets and would put up CNG facilities at the outlets, wherever found feasible. The eligible CGD entities have, thus, committed a total of 580 CNG stations in the States of Tripura and Assam. The Ministry has also pointed out, in their reply, that IOCL does not have any GA allotted in NE States and Assam, yet the IOCL has 58% market participation in CNG stations of NE States. Currently, there are

total 31 CNG selling stations on industry basis in NE States out of which, IOCL has 18 CNG stations, i.e., 58% of participation amongst industry members at the beginning of the current fiscal year. The Committee note with optimism the initiatives towards connecting entire NE by natural gas pipeline being/to be laid by GAIL and Indhradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL). To this extent, the NEGG is being developed by IGGL for which the Government of India has approved a VGF of 60% amounting to Rs. 5,559 crore. The Committee further note that with the completion of NEGG and Brauni-Guwahati pipeline, all the NE states shall be connected to the 'National Gas Grid' and various LNG terminals in the country. The Committee would also like the Government to bring out the details regarding the proposal for expanding the NEGG which is under active consideration of the Ministry and share the same with the Committee at the earliest.

20. The Committee while taking note of the action taken replies of the Ministries, would like to reiterate their earlier recommendation regarding correcting/checking the uneven and unsystematic distribution of their respective Stations/Centres/ROs across the NE Region. To this extent, the Committee feel that a lot of ground needs to be covered to establish a comprehensive and well spread out network across the region. The Committee would also urge the Ministry and OMCs to make concerted efforts to gradually shift towards a 'Gas-Based Economy' to increase the share of Natural Gas from the current 6.7% to 15% by 2030 and consequently develop a nation-wide 'Gas Grid' and other gas infrastructure, gas distribution and de-gasification terminals. Further, the Ministry should also ensure various long term initiatives through policy intervention, including monetary and subsidy support by the Government to promote and encourage the use of CNG/H-CNG, especially across the NE region. The Committee would also like the Ministry and OMCs to chalk out a time bound plan to establish such facilities to the public/consumers.

**Laying of Natural Gas Pipeline under North East Gas Grid (NEGG) and its connectivity (also under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board-PNGRB)**

21. The Committee had noted that NEGG Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL), a joint venture company of IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) with equity contribution, has been entrusted by the Government for its implementation at an estimated cost of ₹ 9265 crore. Further, the 1656 km long Natural Gas Pipeline Grid with a design capacity of 4.7 (Million Standard Cubic Meters of Gas per day) is being implemented to connect all the eight NE States, viz., Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Sikkim to the 'National Gas Grid' with the Barauni-Guwahati pipeline being implemented by GAIL as a part of Urja Ganga Scheme. Also, the Grid will be connected to the sustainable and viable gas sources of the North-East. The Committee are happy to note from the action taken replies that NEGG project is under implementation by IGGL as per schedule, that too, without any time or cost overrun. The Committee are also satisfied with the progress of NEGG, which has achieved a physical achievement of 67.53% out of the scheduled progress of 68.11% (as on March 2023). Further, expenditure as on 15 March 2023 is of ₹ 3809.75 crore while the commitment stands at ₹ 7245 crore.

22. The Committee had expressed its concern regarding the issue of development of Steel Network and PNG connectivity to Gomti District which has not been started as TNGCL was supposed to receive PNGRB specified Dry Gas required for the CGD expansion. The Committee had expressed its displeasure to the effect that only after getting the Dry Gas the work of DPNG connections to the Gomti District, TNGCL will be able to provide further 11514 DPNG connections to the Gomti District as per Minimum Work Program (MWP) committed to the PNGRB. The Committee note that no specific reply has been given by the Ministry on this particular aspect. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the Agencies concerned should ramp up its



operation to ensure timely completion and development of steel network and PNG connectivity, alongside the scheduled delivery of essential Dry Gas for CGD expansion. The Committee would be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

23. The Committee are happy to note that the Central and State Governments are providing continuous support and guidance in resolving and realizing the objective of expeditious implementation of the NEGG project as per schedule. The Committee also take cognizance that in addition to the relentless efforts and continuous support extended by the Central and State Government(s), the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas should also put in their efforts and collaborate with the State Governments of NE States to address various road blocks, viz., delay in forest clearances, permission from Public Works Department, etc., where the pipeline is planned to be laid. The Committee would also reiterate their earlier recommendation that since the pipeline shall be coming across five major rivers and forest areas, utmost care be ensured so that the natural habitat and fauna of the area are not harmed. The Committee, therefore, would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard within three months of the presentation of this report to the House.

New Delhi;

18 December, 2023  
27 Agrahayana, 1945 (Saka)

HARISH DWIVEDI,  
Chairperson  
Committee on Petitions

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS  
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

The Committee met on Monday, 18 December, 2023 from 1500 hrs. to 1715 hrs. in Committee Room No. 3, Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh - In the Chair

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Brijendra Singh
3. Shri Sushil Kumar Singh
4. Shri Manoj Kumar Tiwari
5. Shri Prabhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava
6. Shri Rajan Baburao Vichare

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Raju Srivastava - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Tenzin Gyaltzen - Deputy Secretary

**WITNESSES**

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

2. At the outset, in the absence of the Chairperson, the Committee under Rule 258(3) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha chose Shri Sunil Kumar Singh to act as Chairperson for the sitting.

3. Thereafter, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

4.	***	***	***	***
5.	***	***	***	***
6.	***	***	***	***
7.	***	***	***	***
8.	***	***	***	***
9.	***	***	***	***
10.	***	***	***	***
11.	***	***	***	***
12.	***	***	***	***
13.	***	***	***	***
14.	***	***	***	***

15. The Committee, thereafter, took up for consideration the following draft Action taken Reports:-

- (i) Action Taken Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee on Petitions (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) in their Thirty Fifth Report on the representation of Shri Tokhehe Yepthomi for increasing the capacity of LPG Bottling Plants, Compressed Natural Gas Stations in the North-Eastern States, especially in Guwahati and other important issues related therewith;

(ii)	***	***	***	***
(iii)	***	***	***	***
(iv)	***	***	***	***
(v)	***	***	***	***
(vi)	***	***	***	***
(vii)	***	***	***	***
(viii)	***	***	***	***

16. After discussing the above mentioned eight draft Action Taken Reports in detail, the Committee adopted these Reports without any modification and authorised the Chairperson to finalise the draft Action Taken Reports and present the same to the House during the ensuing Session.

17.	***	***	***	***
18.	***	***	***	***

The Committee, then, adjourned.

---

\*\*\* Does not pertain to this Report.