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Friday, February 03, 2012

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WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL
CONSEIL MONDIAL DE L'ENERGIE
INDIAN MEMBER COMMITTEE
Core-6, 7th Floor, Scope Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Tele: +91-11-24363719
Fax: +91-11-24369530
Email : wecimc@yahoo.co.in

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The proceedings and videos shall also be available shortly.

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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Ukraine applies to resume participation in greenhouse gas quota trade

Jan 31 at 11:39 | Interfax-Ukraine

Ukraine has turned to the Kyoto Protocol Compliance Committee of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change with the request to resume participation in international trading of greenhouse gas emission quotas, the State Environmental Investment Agency of Ukraine said.

"Ukraine's request to resume full participation in the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms is included in the preliminary agenda of the compliance division's 18th meeting, which will be held from Feb. 7-10 in the city of Bonn," the statement said.



Ukraine forecasts that its participation in greenhouse gas quota trade will resume by April of this year.

The UN Convention on Climate Change's Protocol Compliance Committee suspended Ukraine's participation in international emissions quota trading on Oct. 12, 2011 due to "a discrepancy between the national system of greenhouse gas emissions accounting and the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol."

The Committee did not heed requests by the Ukrainian delegation to postpone making the decision by one to two months. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan on Dec. 12, 1997, and entered into force on Feb. 16, 2005.

The protocol determines the procedure and principles of jointly fulfilling commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by concluding special agreements between participants in the protocol.

Economic Times

POWER

Anil Ambani's Reliance Power asks government not to review surplus coal decision

2 FEB, 2012, 05.14AM IST, ET BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Anil Ambani's Reliance group has urged the government not to review the decision to allow the use of surplus coal from mines attached to its Sasan project for other plants and said it was "deeply concerned" that the CAG had not consulted Reliance Power but reportedly made adverse comments about it.

An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), three years ago, had allowed the company to fire its proposed Chitrani plant using surplus coal from the 4,000 mw Sasan Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) but recently, as reported by ET, the power ministry had asked for a review of this step.

The EGoM, which referred the matter to the attorney general, is scheduled to meet this month. Ahead of the meeting, the group has written letters to Power Minister Sushilkumar Shinde, Law Minister Salman Khurshid and Coal Minister Shriprakash Jaiswal, saying the government should be consistent in its policies and stand by the existing decision.

"It is submitted that any proposal to review EGoM decisions taken more than three years ago could severely dent confidence of the international lending community in Indian projects and would signal lack of policy stability, thereby jeopardizing the infrastructure investments in the country," the group said in its letters to the ministers, seen by ET.

The group has strongly objected to reported observations by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) that Reliance Power had not met its contractual obligations for UMPPs. Industry officials said that that delays in building projects were primarily because procurers, or state government, who would buy power, had not met their own obligations such as providing land. "CAG has written about the lack of fulfillment of obligations by Reliance Power without even consulting Reliance Power and without even verifying the performance of respective obligations by the procurers under the PPA. Non-performance of the obligations by the procurers under the UMPP PPAs has caused the maximum delays in all the UMPPs awarded so far," the group told the ministers.

"We are deeply concerned about these reports on CAG observations," it said. It said there were no windfall gains for Reliance Power due to the permission to use incremental coal for power projects, which was a policy decision of the EGoM in line with identical decision taken by the government for other developers.

"The government, through its affidavits in the Supreme Court, has affirmed that there has been no arbitrary distribution of largesse. The EGoM's decision to permit use of surplus coal did not result in any undue benefit to Reliance Power and has not caused any loss to the exchequer," it said.



AP power cos to invest Rs 14,000 crore to strengthen network

1 FEB, 2012, 08.29PM IST, PTI

The power utilities in Andhra Pradesh are planning to invest Rs 14,000 crore over the next four years to strengthen transmission and distribution network in the state.

In the wake of rising demand for power, AP power utilities would strengthen Transmission and Distribution (T&D) network by investing Rs 14,000 crore in the coming four years, the release said. The state experienced a record consumption of 288 Million Units (MU) during Khariff season as against 277 MU in rabi, according to the release.

Besides, the power generating company APGENCO is planning to achieve additional capacity of 3210 MW during the same period and transmission and distribution companies (APTRANSCO and APDISCOMs) are implementing various innovative schemes to reduce technical and commercial losses which would help in providing better services to the consumers, the release said.

OIL & GAS

Decision on ONGC, BHEL selloff mode deferred

3 FEB, 2012, 03.31AM IST, ET BUREAU

NEW DELHI: A decision on the disinvestment strategy for two leading state-run companies, ONGC & BHEL, was deferred after a meeting of the empowered group of ministers.

It was expected that in wake of the new guidelines issued by the market regulator SEBI, the government will once again kickstart the divestment process in these two companies, which may fetch it around 14,000 crore.

"We have discussed today the implications of the new SEBI guidelines. We are yet to take a decision in regard to mode and timing to be adopted (for divestment in ONGC)," said Oil Minister Jaipal Reddy.

He expressed hope that government would be able to complete 5% stake sale in oil major ONGC in this fiscal. "Both the options are open (follow-on public offer and auction route). It will be our attempt to do something in this fiscal," he said.

A finance ministry official said the panel of ministers will meet within a fortnight to finalise the modalities for stake sale. The government which has a disinvestment target of 40,000 crore has raised on 1,145 crore so far.



e-Paper Mai Today

PAC ready to grill Reliance on KG Basin controversy

THE representatives of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), who will appear before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Friday are likely to face some “ tough” questions from the members.

PAC members as well as the secretariat have prepared a number of questions that are likely to be put before the RIL executives.

A source in the PAC said that they are not satisfied with the petroleum ministry’s explanations on the reasons for allowing RIL to enter the second and third phases of explorations without relinquishing 25 per cent each of the total contract area. In a proposal to the oil ministry RIL had said that the entire block area had been covered by 2D seismic surveys during 2001, based on which perspective leads, spread over the entire contract area, had been identified. A PAC member said the committee is likely to seek clarifications from the contractor on the issue. The members would ask RIL how many wells it proposes to drill to cover the original contract area and how many it has drilled till now in both phases I and II. They are also likely to ask RIL why it did not seek changes in the profit sharing contract (PSC) as it clearly stated that discovery from wells has to be established for retaining the contract area. RIL, on the other hand, had argued that 2D and 3D seismic surveys were enough to establish the presence of petroleum in the contract area.

Another major issue that could find place in the list of questions is the alleged gold- plating of the capital expenditure. RIL’s earlier proposal of augmentation of production capacity from 40 mmscmd to 80 mmscmd can also come under PAC’s scrutiny. The members are set to question the basis of RIL’s decision to augment the production capacity to 80 mmscmd.

RIL had also increased the capital cost from \$ 2.2 billion to \$ 8.8 billion for doubling the production capacity. The members are likely to question the logic behind such a decision from RIL. PAC had already asked the oil ministry if in the view of the underutilisation of the facilities the ministry proposes to restrict cost recovery on the basis of prorata development cost proportionate to the current gas production in relation to the projections made by RIL. It had also asked whether it will re- calculate the cost petroleum and profit petroleum accordingly. The ministry had told PAC that the matter is being examined.

PAC members are keen to ask RIL why the production figures are still only marginally higher than the original production figures. Questions will be there on the estimated liabilities of \$ 746 million, which were added to RIL’s cost. The Mukesh Ambani- led firm will also have to justify the cost of \$ 1.1 billion for bare boat contract of ten years when the cost of the vessel and its conversion cost is around \$ 100 million. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had pointed out this anomaly in its report.

RIL had been complaining that the CAG did not wait for its comments before submitting the final report. In a response to PAC, RIL has said that it was given just a week to respond with comments on the CAG’s draft report, which contained highly technical observations. The company claimed that comments in the draft audit report pertained to highly technical and contractual issues, rather than matters of accounting and audit.



Friday, February 03, 2012

PAC chairman Murli Manohar Joshi has been maintaining that the KG basin scam is as big as 2G scam and PAC would go to the root of it. The CAG report was critical for the petroleum ministry and Directorate General of hydrocarbons (DGH) because of their activities that protected the contractor RIL.

BBC News

Lark Energy submits £35m solar farm plan for Leicestershire

31 January 2012 Last updated at 06:20 GMT

Lark Energy wants to put the solar panels, which would produce enough power for 6,000 homes, on Wymeswold Airfield, near Loughborough.

The panels will be placed between the runways on the former airfield. Lark managing director Jonathan Selwyn said construction would start later this year if the project was approved.



Mr Selwyn said: "This will be 25 to 30 megawatts, so it will be quite big, but it will not be intrusive. "There will not be reflection because the panels are designed to absorb the light rather than reflect it." The panels can be removed to return the land to its current state when energy production ceases in 30 years, he said.

Charnwood borough councillor Jenny Bokor said: "I think this is a really good idea. There are 1,500 homes in all the Wolds villages and this could more than meet their needs.

"I am sure there will be some people who will object but I am in favour of making use of the land to create energy."

Wymeswold Parish Council chairman Nick Shaw said: "It won't make any noise or create any pollution."



बिजली फिर महंगी

नई दिल्ली, जागरण संवाददाता : दिल्ली में बिजली की कीमतों में फिर से पांच प्रतिशत का इजाफा कर दिया गया है। कीमतों में यह वृद्धि पहली फरवरी से लागू हो गई है। बिजली कंपनियों की मांग पर विद्युत विनियामक आयोग (डीईआरसी) ने फ्यूल चार्ज के रूप में कीमतों में पांच फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी का आदेश दिया है। यह वृद्धि अगले तीन महीने फरवरी, मार्च व अप्रैल के लिए होगी। आयोग का यह आदेश अस्थायी है। बाद में अंतिम आदेश जारी होगा।

इससे पहले डीईआरसी ने पिछले साल एक सितंबर से लागू नए टैरिफ में बिजली के दामों में करीब 22 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी की थी। डीईआरसी ने अपने आदेश में कहा है कि राजधानी की प्रमुख बिजली वितरण कंपनी बीआरपीएल, बीवाईपीएल और एनडीपीएल ने अक्टूबर-दिसंबर 2011 तक फ्यूल चार्ज को समायोजित करने का आवेदन किया था। इसके तहत एनडीपीएल ने 9.12 फीसदी, बीआरपीएल ने 10.75 और बीवाईपीएल ने 12.43 फीसदी चार्ज की लगाने की मांग थी। आयोग बिजली वितरण कंपनियों द्वारा दिए दस्तावेजों की जांच कर रहा है। आयोग ने कहा है कि बिजली उत्पादन की लागत बढ़ी है। ऐसी स्थिति में बढ़ी हुई लागत का कुछ बोझ उपभोक्ताओं को भी उठाना चाहिए। इसीलिए आयोग ने पांच प्रतिशत फ्यूल चार्ज बढ़ाने का फैसला किया। यह चार्ज नए बिल शामिल हो जाएगा। पूर्व में आयोग ने उपभोक्ताओं पर फ्यूल चार्ज का अतिरिक्त बोझ टाल दिया था। तब आयोग ने कहा था कि वितरण कंपनियों के दस्तावेजों की जांच के बाद फैसला किया जाएगा।