

Bid to end biogas, natural gas tax anomaly

Richa Mishra
 Hyderabad

In a bid to clear the tax anomaly between biogas and natural gas when blending for use as auto fuel (compressed natural gas), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Union Budget, has proposed exemption in excise duty on CNG to the extent equal to the GST paid on biogas or compressed biogas, subject to conditions.

Currently natural gas falls under the value-added tax (VAT) regime, while biogas attracts GST.

The Government has been promoting the use of compressed biogas as an alternative green transport fuel, which is produced through anaerobic decomposition of waste/ biomass sources, including municipal solid waste.



ALTERNATIVE. The Centre has been promoting the use of compressed biogas as an alternative green transport fuel

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had launched the 'Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation' (SATAT) initiative on October 1, 2018, aimed at establishing an eco-system for the

production of compressed biogas from waste/ biomass sources and promote its use along with natural gas.

Subsequently, the ministry had issued guidelines for co-mingling of domestic gas, for supply through city

gas distribution networks, with compressed biogas. However, due to the tax discrepancy, the blending had not taken off.

COST RATIONALISATION

Under SATAT, public sector oil marketing companies and GAIL had invited expression of interest (EOI) to procure CBG from potential entrepreneurs for the establishment of CBG plants across the country with an estimated production of 15 MMT per annum by 2023. OMCs and GAIL had earlier offered ₹46 per kg delivered price for procurement of CBG, which now stands at ₹54 per kg with additional incentives based on the delivery distance and current CNG market price.

According to Gaurav Kedia, Chairman, Indian Biogas Association, "Biogas plant

produces two major products: biogas (which can be refined further to produce bio-CNG or compressed biogas); and organic fertiliser (also known as fermented organic manure or FOM). The grid insertion of CBG with existing CNG/PNG pipeline raises the issue of cascading taxes, as CBG falls under the GST regime while compressed or piped natural gas falls under the excise regime."

The Budget has attempted to address the blending issue of CBG in PNG by exempting GST-paid CBG from excise duty in order to boost green mobility even further, he added. This also works as cost rationalisation for CBG producers. In due course, a 5 per cent CBG mandate will be introduced for all organisations marketing natural and biogas, she added.

500 'waste to wealth' plants to come up under GOBARdhan: FinMin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme will be established for promoting a circular economy.

These will include 200 compressed biogas (CBG) plants, including 75 plants in urban areas, and 300 community or cluster-based plants at a total investment of Rs 10,000 crore. Presenting the Union Budget for 2023-24, she also said the government will facilitate 1 crore farmers to adopt natural farming. The GOBARdhan scheme focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste on farms into compost, biogas, and bio-CNG. In addition to keeping the village clean, it provides additional income for farmers and cattle herders.

The GOBARdhan scheme also aims to make farmers more self-reliant in converting 'waste to energy'. For every district, the Government of India provides technical assistance as well as financial support of up to 50 lakhs to achieve the safe disposal of cattle and organic waste.



In the long run, the scheme aims to help villages safely manage their cattle waste, agricultural waste, and organic waste. Develop decentralized systems to turn cattle and organic waste into wealth for communities. The effective disposal of waste in rural areas is to reduce vector-borne diseases and promote environmental sanitation.

Besides, the government will take up mangrove plantation along the coastline under the new MISHTI scheme, she added. Sitharaman also said the government would promote conservation values through a scheme to encourage optimal use of wetlands.

Further, a green credit programme will be notified to incentivise environmentally sustainable and responsible actions by companies, she said.

Gaurav Kedia, Chairman, Indian Biogas Association said the Budget prioritizes the adoption of green fuel, energy, and building practices to reduce carbon intensity and create new green job opportunities.

Industry hails push for green growth

RAJAT MISHRA
New Delhi, February 2

THE UNION BUDGET tried to lay a roadmap for the country's green and sustainable growth with a special emphasis on the circular economy by keeping Rs 10,000 crore for setting up biogas plants, a move hailed by the industry.

Industry leaders see this as a move in the direction for transition to a gas-based economy and have a 25% share of natural gas in India's energy mix by 2030. According to the Budget announcement, 200 compressed biogas plants, including 75 in urban areas, and 300 cluster-based plants will be set up.

Compressed biogas, or CBG, is

produced by anaerobic decomposition of agricultural waste, sugarcane press mud and municipal waste. It can be used as a fuel for automobiles.

"In recent years, there has been an increased push from the government for blending CBG with natural gas and promoting its adoption as a fuel, particularly in the transportation segment that uses CNG," said Shailesh Tyagi, partner, Climate Change and Sustainability Services, EY India.

"At present, natural gas's share in the energy basket is 6.4%, which is expected to grow to 15% by 2033. Accordingly, the growth of the compressed biogas industry can be seen if we directly index it," said Gaurav Kedia, chairman of the Indian Bio-

gas Association.

The government also announced that in due course, a CBG mandate will be introduced for all organisations marketing natural and biogas, and for the collection of biomass and distribution of bio manure. "The government will give fiscal support for this," FM Nirmala Sitharaman said during her Budget speech on Wednesday.

"The OMCs (oil marketing companies) have been mandated to provide a 5% share of CBG in the Union Budget," said Kedia, adding that amounts to 2.5 million tonne per year if we see the country's LNG requirement, which could only be around 50 million tonne.

Currently, entrepreneurs, corpo-

rations, dairies and others can set up plants for the generation of CBG on a commercial scale and it can be sold to industries or oil marketing companies (OMCs) under the scheme. Many govt PSUs such as GAIL, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) are some of the companies with existing plans for CBG plants. This policy will ensure minimum off-taker risk for upcoming CBG plants, said Varun Karad, chief business officer, GPS Renewables.

"There are around 100 plants which will be commissioned in this calendar year and such positive developments will only promote the growth of this sector," he added.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Budget 2023: Sitharaman announces Rs 35,000 crore towards energy transition; Rs 19,700 crore for green hydrogen

Synopsis

"India is moving forward to net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. An outlay of Rs 19,700 crore for the Green Hydrogen Mission will facilitate transition to low carbon intensity and also reduce dependence on fossil fuels," she said in her Budget speech.



Budget 2023: PM Sitharaman provides Rs 35,000 cr outlay to achieve energy transition

Finance Minister [Nirmala Sitharaman](#) on Wednesday announced a Rs 35,000 crore outlay towards the country's transition to cleaner energy.

"Rs 35,000 core in priority capital investment towards [energy transition](#) and achieving India's goal of net zero carbon emission by 2070," Sitharaman said.

Sitharaman also announced an additional Rs 19,700 crore towards the government's [Green Hydrogen](#) Mission to lower carbon intensity and reduce fossil fuel use. She also announced a five million tonne target for green hydrogen production by 2030.

"India is moving forward to net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. An outlay of Rs 19,700 crore for the Green Hydrogen Mission will facilitate transition to low carbon intensity and also reduce dependence on fossil fuels," she said in her [Budget](#) speech.

With a vision to make India an energy-independent nation and to de-carbonise critical sectors, the government approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission on January 4, 2023, with an initial outlay of Rs 19,744 crore.

The Centre is also supporting the setting up of battery energy storage of 4,000 MwH, she said, adding that a green credit programme will be also notified under the Environment Protection Act.

According to a Reuters report, the Indian government is aiming to cut green hydrogen prices by a fifth in the next five years.

"The budget prioritizes the adoption of green fuel, energy, and building practices to reduce carbon intensity and create new green job opportunities. The government's commitment to this "green growth" approach is a step towards building a cleaner and more prosperous future for all Indians. This is in the direction of India seeking a leadership role in mitigating the global climate crisis," says Gaurav Kedia, Chairman of the Indian Biogas Association.

[Reliance Industries](#), [Indian Oil](#), [NTPC](#), [Adani Enterprises](#), [JSW Energy](#) and [Acme Solar](#) are all in the green hydrogen game, with the Adani Group having a

moneycontrol
BUDGET 2023

Budget 2023 Live Updates: What's good in it for the salaried class, senior citizens and small investors

Union Budget 2023 Highlights: The new proposals laid down by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman include raising the rebate limit, reducing the number of tax slabs, and increasing the standard deduction limits.

Union Budget 2023 live updates: Vision for Amrit Kaal: Opportunities for citizens and youth, job creation, Strong and stable economic environment
Saptarishi-7 priorities: Inclusive development, reaching the last mile, Infra and investment, Youth power, unleashing the potential, financial sector and green growth
Making India global hub for millets: Support to be given to IIMR Hyderabad for promoting research
Agriculture



FEBRUARY 01, 2023 / 12:00 PM IST

Budget 2023 LIVE Updates: Small is beautiful

MSME assistance to continue. Government infuses Rs 9000 cr into the corpus, reduces the cost of credit. The credit guarantee scheme had a choppy start but over the last two years banks have been brought on board to lend, the scheme has helped in alleviating stress in the sector. [Shweta Punj, Deputy Editor]



FEBRUARY 01, 2023 / 11:59 AM IST

Budget 2023 LIVE Updates: Indian Biogas Association on 'green growth' goals

With the Budget focusing on a 'green growth' strategy, it prioritizes the adoption of green fuel, energy, and building practices to reduce carbon intensity and create new green job opportunities. The 7 main priorities, referred to as "Saptrishi," aim to drive sustainable and environmentally-friendly economic development. The government's commitment to this 'green growth' approach is a step towards building a cleaner and more prosperous future for all Indians. This is in the direction of India seeking a leadership role in mitigating the global climate crisis.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Budget 2023 Live Updates: Substantial changes made in personal income tax in Budget, new tax regime now more attractive, says FM

Budget 2023 Live Updates: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a number of changes in the income tax slabs in the new tax regime. If we include all rebates, an individual will have to pay no ...

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KEY EVENTS

16:15 (IST) Feb 02

Exemption on ferrous scrap saving grace for stainless steel sector: Jindal Steel MD

The exemption on ferrous scrap and stainless steel scrap is the "saving grace" for the industry, which is facing issues of raw material unavailability, JSL MD Abhyuday Jindal said on Thursday. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Union Budget for 2023-24 in Parliament on Wednesday. In her budget speech, the finance minister proposed to continue the exemption from basic customs duty (BCD) on raw materials for manufacturing cold rolled grain oriented (CRGO) steel, ferrous scrap and nickel cathode to facilitate the availability of raw materials to the steel sector. "We are grateful that the Finance Minister has continued the exemption on ferrous scrap and stainless steel scrap. This is a saving grace for industries like ours where input materials are domestically not available/ inadequate, and who still have to compete with duty-free imports of subsidised finished goods in the market," Jindal said.

21:03 (IST) Feb 01

Budget 2023: 'Green growth strategy'

"Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has presented the budget focusing on a "green growth" strategy. The budget prioritizes the adoption of green fuel, energy, and building practices to reduce carbon intensity and create new green job opportunities. The 7 main priorities, referred to as "Saptrishi," aim to drive sustainable and environmentally-friendly economic development. The government's commitment to this "green growth" approach is a step towards building a cleaner and more prosperous future for all Indians. This is in the direction of India seeking a leadership role in mitigating the global climate crisis." - Gaurav Kedia, Chairman, Indian Biogas Association

20:59 (IST) Feb 01

Budget 2023 live: 'Focus on green growth'

"The Union budget has sent the right signal to investors, businesses, and citizens that green growth is a priority for India. The focus on sustainable agriculture practices, including organic farming initiatives backed with incentives for over 1 crore farmers which will help ensure that chemical-free food ingredients are used in food and related products is encouraging. The Green Credit Programme under the Environment (Protection) Act to incentivize environmentally sustainable and responsive actions by companies, individuals and local bodies will help each and every one of us inculcate sustainable habits and increase investments in the sector." - Abhijit Bhattacharya, Founder & CBO, OneGreen

Budget 2023: Bid to end tax anomaly between biogas, natural gas to promote green fuel

February 01, 2023 - Updated 07:26 pm IST

Currently natural gas falls under value-added tax regime, while biogas attracts GST

BY RICHIA MISHRA

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In a bid to clear the tax anomaly between biogas and natural gas when blending for use as auto fuel (compressed natural gas), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Union Budget, has proposed exemption in excise duty on CNG to the extent equal to the GST paid on biogas or compressed biogas, subject to conditions.

Currently natural gas falls under the value-added tax (VAT) regime, while biogas attracts GST.

Budget 2023-2024: Catalysing Green Growth



The Green Credit programme is expected to channel the much-needed capital to support transition to a sustainable



The Green Credit Programme is for incentivising and mobilising additional resources for environmentally sustainable actions.

DepositPhotos

-  In line with the Green Growth focus of the Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced, 500 new waste to wealth plants to be established under GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme with a total investment of Rs 10,000 crore. It is expected to contribute to circular economy.
-  GST-paid compressed biogas has been also exempted from excise duty.

  Gaurav Kedia, Chairman, Indian Biogas Association, elaborates, "New 500 plants under GOBAR-dhan scheme will be established, including 200 Compressed BioGas (CBG) facilities and 300 community and cluster-based biogas plants at a total investment of Rs 10,000 crore. The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been mandated to provide a 5 per cent share of CBGs."

Similarly, the Green Credit Programme to be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act is for incentivising and mobilising additional resources for environmentally sustainable and responsive actions. Anjali Bansal, Founder, Avaana Capital, says, "The Green Credit programme is expected to channel much needed capital to support the transition to a sustainable economy."

Bansal adds, "Concessional duties on Li-ion batteries will provide further boost to the EV sector and help decarbonise the transport and logistics sectors." To encourage green mobility, the budget noted, the concessional duty on lithium-ion cells for batteries will remain for another year. Experts point it will reduce the price of electric vehicles.

Union Budget 2023 LIVE: Not compelling anyone to shift from old to new tax regime, says Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Budget 2023 LIVE: Many encouraging projects launched in this project. For the first time ever Budget has come out with various training programmes which will change lives of crores, PM Modi said



12:38 (IST)

Budget 2023 LIVE

Focus on green growth to create job opportunities

Gaurav Kedia, Chairman of Indian Biogas Association, says the budget prioritises the adoption of green fuel, energy, and building practices to reduce carbon intensity and create new green job opportunities. The seven main priorities, referred to as "Saptrishi," aim to drive sustainable and environmentally-friendly economic development. The government's commitment to this "green growth" approach is a step towards building a cleaner and more prosperous future for all Indians. This is in the direction of India seeking a leadership role in mitigating the global climate crisis.



Budget 2023 | FM announces PM-PRANAM scheme to promote alternative fertilisers



3 Min(s) Read



By Jomy Jos Pullokan

Feb 1, 2023 12:58:16 PM IST (Updated)

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Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday (February 1) said government will be launching PM Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana (PM Pranam) scheme.

Presenting the last full Union Budget of the Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday (February 1) said government will be launching PM Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana (PM Pranam) scheme.

Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres

"Over the next 3 years, we will facilitate 1 crore farmers to adopt natural farming. For this, 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres will be set-up, creating a national-level distributed micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network," FM added.

Also Read: [Budget 2023 | FM Sitharaman announces Rs 7,000 crore outlay for 3rd phase of eCourts project](#)

Gaurav Kedia, Chairman of Indian Biogas Association, said Finance Minister today presented PM-Pranam (Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana) scheme during Union budget 2023, which will support the use of alternate fertilizers as part of the government's commitment to a greener future.

The government has also secured Rs 35,000 crore to support the transition towards energy efficiency and security. In line with these efforts, a new 500 plants under GOBAR-dhan scheme will be established, including 200 Compressed BioGas (CBG) facilities and 300 community and cluster based biogas plants, at a total investment of Rs 10,000 crore, Kedia said.



Budget 2023: GOBARdhan Scheme to Promote Circular Economy with Investment of Rs 10,000 Cr, Says FM

PTI • Last Updated: FEBRUARY 01, 2023, 13:28 IST • New Delhi, India



Budget 2023: Nirmala Sitharaman said this the first Budget in Amrit Kaal.

Presenting the Union Budget for 2023-24, Nirmala Sitharaman also said the government will facilitate 1 crore farmers to adopt natural farming.

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Presenting the Union Budget for 2023-24, she also said the government will facilitate 1 crore farmers to adopt natural farming. Besides, the government will take up mangrove plantation along the coastline under the new MISHTI scheme, she added.

Gaurav Kedia, Chairman, Indian Biogas Association said the Budget prioritizes the adoption of green fuel, energy, and building practices to reduce carbon intensity and create new green job opportunities.

"The 7 main priorities, referred to as "Saptrishi," aim to drive sustainable and environment-friendly economic development. The government's commitment to this "green growth" approach is a step towards building a cleaner and more prosperous future for all Indians," he added.

Budget 2023: 'Green Growth' among 7 priority sectors for govt

Budget 2023: The "Green Growth" priority sector is a step towards India's resolve to achieve Net Zero by 2070.

SWETA GOSWAMI | FEBRUARY 01, 2023 / 12:11 PM IST



These green growth efforts will help in reducing carbon intensity of the economy and provide for large-scale green job opportunities, Sitharaman said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 said "green growth" will be one of the seven priority sectors ("Saptarishi") of the Union Budget 2023.

In her **Budget** speech, she explained that the "green growth" priority sector will include multiple programmes on green fuel, green energy, green farming, green mobility, green buildings and green equipment. This will also include policies for efficient use of energy across various sectors, Sitharaman said.

"These green growth efforts will help in reducing carbon intensity of the economy and provides for large scale green job opportunities," she said.

So far, India has achieved the target of making 40 percent of its electricity generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.

Gaurav Kedia, Chairman, Indian Biogas Association said, "With the Budget focusing on a 'green growth' strategy, it prioritizes the adoption of green fuel, energy, and building practices to reduce carbon intensity and create new green job opportunities. The 7 main priorities, referred to as "Saptrishi," aim to drive sustainable and environmentally-friendly economic development."

"The government's commitment to this 'green growth' approach is a step towards building a cleaner and more prosperous future for all Indians. This is in the direction of India seeking a leadership role in mitigating the global climate crisis," Kedia said.

Budget 2023: Industry hails push for gas-based economy

According to the Budget announcement, 200 compressed biogas plants, including 75 in urban areas, and 300 cluster-based plants will be set up.

February 3, 2023 01:20 15|

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Industry leaders see this as a move in the direction for transition to a gas-based economy and have a 25% share of natural gas in India's energy mix by 2030.

By Rajat Mishra

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"In recent years, there has been an increased push from the government for blending CBG with natural gas and promoting its adoption as a fuel, particularly in the transportation segment that uses CNG," said Shailesh Tyagi, partner, Climate Change and Sustainability Services, EY India.

"At present, natural gas's share in the energy basket is 6.4%, which is expected to grow to 15% by 2033. Accordingly, the growth of the compressed biogas industry can be seen if we directly index it," said Gaurav Kedia, chairman of the Indian Biogas Association.

"The OMCs (oil marketing companies) have been mandated to provide a 5% share of CBG in the Union Budget," said Kedia, adding that amounts to 2.5 million tonne per year if we see the country's LNG requirement, which could only be around 50 million tonne.

"There are around 100 plants which will be commissioned in this calendar year and such positive developments will only promote the growth of this sector," he added.

According to the International Energy Agency(IEA), the world's biogas and biomethane resources could meet 20% of global gas demand while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.The world is only using a fraction of the potential to produce gas from organic waste, which could cover around 20% of today's global demand for gas,the IEA said in one of its reports.



Union Budget 2023: GOBARdhan Scheme to Promote Circular Economy With Investment of Rs 10,000 Crore

Union Budget 2023: Govt proposes to make new tax structure as default tax



New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme will be established for promoting circular economy.

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Gaurav Kedia, Chairman, Indian Biogas Association said the Budget prioritizes the adoption of green fuel, energy, and building practices to reduce carbon intensity and create new green job opportunities.

"The 7 main priorities, referred to as "Saptrishi," aim to drive sustainable and environment-friendly economic development. The government's commitment to this "green growth" approach is a step towards building a cleaner and more prosperous future for all Indians," he added.

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Sitharaman announces Rs 35,000 crore for energy transition and Rs 19,700 crore for green hydrogen in her budget for 2023

By Aakasha | Wednesday February 1, 2023

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The nation would invest Rs 35,000 crore in the transition to greener energy, the finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** declared on Wednesday.

"Rs 35,000 core in priority capital investment on energy transformation and fulfilling India's aim of net zero carbon emission by 2070," said Sitharaman.

Sitharaman also promised an additional Rs 19,700 crore for the government's Green Hydrogen Mission, which aims to reduce carbon intensity and the use of fossil fuels.

"India is moving closer to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. The Green Hydrogen Mission, which will receive a \$ 19.7 billion investment, will help society make the transition to a low-carbon economy and reduce its dependency on fossil fuels." She made this statement in her budget speech.

According to a Reuters report, the Indian government wants to lower the price of green hydrogen by a fifth over the next five years. According to the most recent proclamation, India has now joined the United States and Europe in pushing the production of green fuel.

"The budget prioritizes the use of green building, energy, and fuel practices in order to reduce carbon intensity and offer new **green initiatives opportunities**. The government's commitment to this "**green growth**" policy is a step in the right path toward building a better future for all Indians, one that is healthier and wealthier. This is consistent with India's ambition to lead efforts to combat the global climate calamity," the chairman of the Indian Biogas Association, Gaurav Kedia.

As the country works to create five million tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030, the plan, which was presented in February 2022, is anticipated to profit from the news.

The green hydrogen market is occupied by **Adani Enterprises**, JSW Energy, Acme Solar, Indian Oil, NTPC, Reliance Industries, and the Adani Group. The Adani Group also collaborates with TotalEnergies of France.

GOBARdhan scheme to promote circular economy with investment of Rs 10,000 cr: FM



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