

COMPRESSED BIO GAS (CBG) IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR, AND GOVERNMENT IS TAKING ALL STEPS TO PROMOTE ECOSYSTEM AROUND IT: SHRI HARDEEP S. PURI

Relevant for: Indian Economy | Topic: Infrastructure: Energy incl. Renewable & Non-renewable

Addressing the inaugural event of Asia's largest Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Lehragaga, Sangrur, Punjab, Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep S. Puri, said that this plant in Sangrur is just the beginning of India's master plan for a CBG-based rural economy. He said that the CBG is the need of the hour, and Government is taking all steps to promote the ecosystem around it.

Shri Hardeep S. Puri inaugurated Asia's largest CBG plant in Sangrur today. The Plant has been commissioned with an FDI investment of Rs. 220 crores (approx.) by Verbio AG, one of Germany's leading Bio-energy companies. Shri Bhagwant Mann, Chief Minister, Punjab and senior management from Verbio India Private Limited were present at the event.

The Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant inaugurated by Shri Hardeep S. Puri in Sangrur is a step in achieving objectives of the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme, which was launched by Government of India in October 2018 to establish an ecosystem for production of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) from various waste/ biomass sources in the country. The scheme aims to empower and unleash the rural economy by supporting farmers, increase India's domestic energy production and self-sufficiency and also reduce the air pollution, and help India lead the world toward a clean energy transition. Apart from this plant, 38 CBG / Biogas Plants have been commissioned under the SATAT initiative.

The CBG Plant at Sangrur, is spread across an area of 20 acres (approx.). The plant's present production is about 6 TPD CBG, but soon this plant will process 300 Tons Per Day of paddy straw at max. capacity to produce 33 TPD of CBG using 8 digesters of 10,000 cubic meters.

Noting the importance of the day of the CBG plant inauguration, Shri Hardeep S. Puri said the plant is inaugurated a day after announcement of pivotal schemes and benefits for the farming community by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Yesterday, PM released the 12th instalment of the PM-KISAN direct benefit transfer scheme. Rs. 16,000 crores were instantly transferred into farmer-beneficiaries accounts. The Prime Minister also inaugurated 600 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PMKSK), which will not only be sales centres for fertiliser but a mechanism for establishing a deep bond with the farmers of the country. He had also launched the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana - One Nation One Fertiliser, a scheme for ensuring affordable quality fertiliser under the 'Bharat brand' to the farmers.

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas said that the initiatives such as this CBG plants are a huge leap forward in arriving at a win-win situation for farmers and the environment.

Talking about the benefits of the Sangrur CBG plant for rural economy, the Minister observed that this plant will consume 100,000 tons of paddy straw, which will be procured from 6-8 satellite locations within a 10 km radius of the plant. There shall be daily production of about 600-650 Tons of FOM (Fermented Organic Manure), which can be used for organic farming. The CBG Plant shall also provide direct employment to 390 and indirect employment to 585 people.

Not only will this plant generate additional income for Sangrur's farmers, but it will also provide a much-needed alternative to stubble burning, the Minister added further. He said that this Plant will reduce stubble burning of 40,000 – 45,000 acres of fields, translating into an annual reduction of 150,000 tons of CO2 emissions, which will not only ensure that the citizens of Sangrur, Punjab, breathe in cleaner air but also contribute towards India's COP26 Climate Change targets of total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030 Achieving the target of net zero emissions by 2070.

Referring to the efforts being made to encourage the indigenous manufacturing of CBG Plant equipment such as Cascades, Compressors & Dispensers, Shri Hardeep S. Puri noted that this will ramp up 'Make in India' opportunities across India's manufacturing sector. We are working with the stakeholders to make cheaper credit available for the plants' establishment, he said.

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