

# **City Gas Distribution networks to be established in Uttar Pradesh**

## **Consultations begin with Chairman PNG Regulatory Board**

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In order to ensure safe, cheap and uninterrupted fuel supply to auto, domestic, commercial and industrial sectors, Government of U.P. is in the process of finalizing action plan to introduce City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in districts of the State. In this regard, a crucial meeting was held by Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner (IIDC), Anil Kumar Gupta with Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), S. Krishnan here today in the presence of District Magistrate-Lucknow, Anurag Yadav, various senior official of concerned departments and other stakeholders.

CGD includes supply of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as auto fuel and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for domestic, commercial and industrial use.

"State Government is keen to usher in environmentally responsible and inclusive development in urban as well as rural areas and this initiative to build effective and cheap fuel distribution infrastructure is an important step in this direction", said IIDC, Anil Kumar Gupta. He added that CGD networks would be introduced in districts in a phased manner according to the demand and concentration of industries.

Issues that were discussed included- identification of districts, setting up of single window clearance mechanism, nomination of project Nodal officers at State, district and municipal levels; determination of geographical areas for CGD network; rationalisation of tax structure; establishment of common ducting/corridor for all CGD utilities along with skill development of required manpower were discussed.

Chairman, PNGRB, S. Krishnan said that in view of the rising fuel prices and their paucity, natural gas holds the promise of ensuring energy security not only for domestic purposes but faced with scarcity of coal, power sector would also have to adopt natural gas as primary fuel.

Mr Krishnan pointed out that once the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) was shorn of high level of subsidy, pipelined natural gas (PNG) would be cheaper and safer environmentally and same stood true for auto-fuel in the form of compressed natural gas (CNG) in place of petrol and diesel.

It may be noted that PNGRB is the central regulatory body, empowered to authorise for setting up CDG infrastructure along with notification of regulations in this regard. CGD networks are already under implementation in 11 Geographical areas (GAs) in Uttar Pradesh. These are- Lucknow, Kanpur, Firozabad, Meerut, NOIDA, Greater NOIDA, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Agra, Mathura and Khurja.