

Govt guidelines for PNG supply to industrial dev authorities

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The Uttar Pradesh government has issued guidelines for the supply of piped natural gas (PNG) to industrial development authorities with the objective of environmental conservation and providing safe fuel to the industries. The decision has also been prompted by the rapid industrial growth and investment in the manufacturing sector in the state. Moreover, necessary steps are being taken to convert the major highways of the state into green energy corridors to promote the use of pollution-free fuel in the transport sector.

Industrial Development Minister Satish Mahana said on Sunday that authorities concerned had been directed to permit and facilitate authorised gas companies to lay pipelines for the network of natural gas in areas of state's industrial development authorities. The minister said that it would help not only in ensuring environmental protection but would also enable safe fuel supply to the units set up in industrial areas of the state along with mitigating pressure on transportation traffic.

Additional Chief Secretary, Infrastructure and Industrial Development, Alok Kumar said directions had been issued to Noida, Greater Noida, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA), Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA), Satharia Industrial Development Authority (SIDA) and Lucknow Industrial Development Authority (LIDA) to provide required support to gas companies in developing PNG network. He said that in addition to being safe, PNG proves to be economical due to savings on storage and transportation expenses.

It may be noted that the Infrastructure & Industrial Development department had issued a government order last week to the chief executive officers of authorities concerned to implement the 'Dig and Restore' policy of Urban Development department in industrial areas in compliance with Petroleum Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) directives for development of city gas distribution (CGD) network based on geographical

area. These industrial development authorities have been directed to permit and facilitate infrastructure development by authorised gas companies for the supply of PNG.

Under the 'Dig and Restore' policy, permission has been given to lay underground pipelines for gas supply through the use of such technologies that do not affect or interrupt traffic and normal activities. It provides that the gas company must submit a bank guarantee before getting the permission for laying gas pipeline or setting up a pit or chamber. If the digging and restoration work done by the company is found to be satisfactory, a no-objection certificate (NOC) will be provided and the bank guarantee will be returned within a month from the receipt NOC.

Kumar said that similarly, to promote the use of pollution-free fuel in vehicles for transportation, UPSIDA had been instructed to provide support to the city gas distribution licencees in setting up necessary facilities in its area for the supply of CNG under the programme to convert the major highways of the state into green energy corridors.