

Govt takes a bold gas price decision

June 28, 2013

Quick Note

Govt accepts the Rangarajan formula from April 2014; a positive move, and could more than double domestic gas prices

The Indian government has finally acted on gas prices. The full details of Cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) meeting are not yet available, but as per CNBC and other news channels reports:

- Govt has accepted all the recommendation of Rangarajan committee on gas pricing. The only difference seems to be that there will be quarterly revision (and not monthly as recommended).
- New price **applicable from 01-April-2014**; and valid for five years.
- The likely price is **USD8.4 to 8.6/mmbtu in April 14**, and this could potential increase to over USD10/mmbtu in three years.
- Applicable to all domestic gas including APM gas, but not applicable where prices are determined by PSC mechanism (like NELP blocks) or where contracts provide for price indexation (like PMT).

The approved formula, in our view, would not directly apply to NELP blocks like RIL's KG-D6. Under the PSC mechanism, the price is market determined and government approval is required only for formulas. But, with the benchmark being set for domestic prices and government keen to control price, we think any new NELP price formula would be at least similar if not better than the Rangarajan formula.

ONGC and OIL biggest beneficiary; but, will much benefit stay?

On our estimate, each USD1/mmbtu of higher gas price raises ONGC/OIL's FY15 EPS by 8–9%. Thus a near doubling of price to USD 8.4/mmbtu can possibly raises ONGC/OIL's FY15 earnings by nearly 35–40%. But, the catch is that nearly 90% of APM gas goes to the highly price-sensitive fertiliser and power sectors, where passing on price increases is particularly difficult. And it is unlikely, in our view, that the cash-strapped GoI would be willing to foot the nearly USD2.8bn increase in the gas bill for the power and fertilizer sectors.

We highlight, that when APM gas prices were raised last in June 2010 (from USD 2/mmbtu to USD 4.2) not much benefit stayed with the upstream producers. The effective subsidy share of upstream was increased from near 1/3rd level earlier to nearly 40% in FY11 and FY12. Assuming that all of the impact of a higher subsidy is passed on to ONGC/OIL, the benefits would be rather modest at only 7–8%, in our view.

Positive for RIL: KG-D6 price revision will get easier; CBM price also can be decided soon; no change in PMT pricing

Adoption of the Rangarajan committee recommendations paves the way for discussion to commence on KG-D6 and CBM blocks as per the production sharing contract (PSC) mechanism. We think a USD8 plus price is good to attract new investments. But, we think unlikely contractors will readily agree, and will still seek higher pricing. The contractors have been seeking LNG import parity pricing (results in price of USD13-15/mmbtu). The gas pricing for the Panna, Mukta & Tapti

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(PMT) fields is currently capped at USD5.57–5.73 (based on fuel price linkages as per PSC).

On our estimates, each USD1/mmbtu increase raises RIL's FY15 EPS by INR1.4/share (2%). For RIL, we already model price of USD8/mmbtu from FY15, and thus do not see much changes to our estimates.

GAIL likely worst impacted; EPS impact of ~18% to FY15F EPS

GAIL, as a user of gas (internal consumption as fuel/feedstock for LPG/petchem production and gas transmission), would be worst impacted. The pricing of both LPG and petchem is based on import parity, thus we do not believe GAIL could pass on costs. For transmission, GAIL could appeal for tariff increases to PNGRB, but tariff reviews take time and PNGRB does not seem favourably disposed towards tariff increases and most of its tariff orders have been harsh.

On our estimates, nearly 50% of GAIL's gas consumption is of non-LNG/non-PMT gas, which is priced at KG-D6 price (USD4.2/mmbtu) or non-APM price (USD5.00–5.50). Our initial estimate indicates that GAIL's gas cost could increase by USD170–180mn. Assuming it is not able to pass on any cost increase (or reduce gas costs by increasing PMT volumes for own consumption), we see an impact of 18% to FY15F EPS.

IGL to pass on increase; not much impact on GUJS and GGAS

In our view, city gas distribution companies (CGD) would be able to pass on all the gas price increases by raising end prices. We highlight that all CGD companies have been able to pass on cost increases, thus would not have much worry on this issue. We highlight that when APM prices were increased by sharp 112% in June 2010, IGL had passed on all of the cost increase by raising its retail CNG price by 26%. Also, we highlight that IGL has shown tremendous ability to pass on gas cost increases – over the past three years; it has affected 14 price increases to raise CNG prices by nearly 100%.

APM gas comprises nearly 70% of IGL's current CNG supply portfolio. For each USD1/mmbtu in APM gas cost increase, we estimate that IGL would need to increase its CNG price by INR2.4/kg. Thus, if APM gas prices were to increase to USD8.4/mmbtu, IGL would need to increase its CNG price by nearly INR10/kg or 24% of the current price.

Gujarat Gas: In our view, APM or KG-D6 price increases would not have much impact on Gujarat Gas, as most of its gas is either LNG or from PMT fields. Only a 10–15% share of its gas is from marginal fields in Gujarat, and we think similar to IGL, it could pass on costs.

For GSPL, as it does not have any gas compression, there is only marginal internal consumption of gas. Thus we do not see any significant impact.

Higher prices improve sentiment and also investment climate

In our view, Gol's decision on gas price is positive and it certainly improves the near term sentiment. However, we think a lot more would still need to be done.

- The Rangarajan committee recommended formula is complex and with many variables and assumption. Timely and transparent pricing decision each quarter would be very important.
- Also, as we highlighted, the Rangarajan committee recommended formula would not directly apply to PSC blocks, and government would need to work with operators to determine the pricing for each of these blocks. This could still remain tricky as several operators have been seeking much higher import parity price than what was recommended by the Rangarajan committee.

Fig. 1: Dr. Rangarajan committee formula on gas pricing

P_{AP} = Appropriate price for domestic consumers = Simple avg. of P_{IAV} and P_{WAV}

Where:

P_{IAV} = Average producer weighted avg. net-back price for Indian LNG imports (Net back price means FOB price minus US\$2.5-3.0/mmbtu of liquefaction costs & US\$0.5/ mmbtu of transportation costs).

P_{WAV} = Weighted average price to producers in the global markets (Henry-hub, NBP and Japanese LNG)

Note: Calculation suggested was on monthly basis and to be based on trailing 12M prices and volumes. Petroleum Ministry has recommended quarterly pricing.

Source: Petroleum Ministry, Nomura research

Fig. 2: Indicative gas prices for last 4 quarters

With rising Indian import prices and rising spot LNG share, the average prices are expected to move above USD8 next year, and above USD10 in three years

	P_{IAV}	P_{WAV}	P_{AP}
July - Sep 12	5.65	10.52	8.08
Oct - Dec 12	6.01	9.14	7.58
Jan - Mar 13	6.36	7.84	7.10
Apr - Jun 13	6.77	6.78	6.775

Note: Calculation is based on last 4 qtrs avg. with a gap of 1 qtr.

Source: Petroleum Ministry, Nomura research

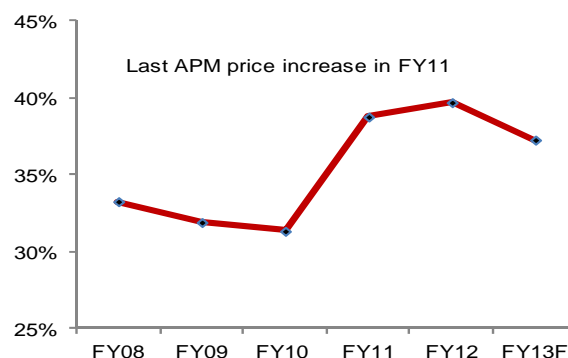
Fig. 3: Likely impact of APM price of \$8.4/mmbtu INR Bn

Incremental revenue to upstream (ONGC/OIL)	193
Incremental revenue to Gol	78
- Royalty	19
- Corporate income tax	59
Post-tax benefit to ONGC/OIL	115
Increase in burden for sensitive sectors	170
- Fertilizer	69
- Power	94
- North East subsidy	7

Source: Nomura estimates

Fig. 4: Upstream subsidy share trends

After last APM price increase in June 2010, the upstream subsidy share increased from one-third to nearly 40%



Source: Petroleum Ministry, company data, Nomura research

Fig. 5: Sensitivity of gas price hike on earnings of ONGC, Oil India and GAIL

Assuming all price hike benefits stay with ONGC/OIL (though an unlikely scenario, in our view), we estimate the earning upside would be 33-39%. If ONGC/OIL bear all the cost increases for power/fertiliser, the gas price gains would be modest at 7-8% on EPS; GAIL would likely suffer most

	FY15F EPS	Price increase of \$1/mmbtu	Domestic gas price at US\$8.4
GAIL	29.6	1.8	5.3
		6%	18%
Assuming all benefit stay with ONGC / OIL			
ONGC	32.6	3.0	12.8
		9%	39%
OIL	57.2	4.5	18.8
		8%	33%
Assuming increased fertiliser / power gas cost borne by ONGC / OIL			
ONGC	32.6	0.6	2.6
		2%	8%
OIL	57.2	0.9	3.8
		2%	7%

Note: Assume INR60/USD for calculation of impact of gas price hike

Source: Nomura estimates

Appendix A-1

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Gujarat State Petronet	GUJS IN	INR 53	27-Jun-2013	Buy	Not Rated	11-May-2010	Not rated
Indraprastha Gas	IGL IN	INR 266	27-Jun-2013	Buy	Not Rated	11-May-2010	Not rated
Oil India	OINL IN	INR 572	27-Jun-2013	Reduce	Not Rated	18-Sep-2012	Not rated
Oil and Natural Gas	ONGC IN	INR 320	27-Jun-2013	Reduce	Neutral	18-Sep-2012	Not rated
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