

GAIL | AFTERMATH

■ 70 of ONGC's 152 on-shore wells are shut

Power plants too feel the heat

DC CORRESPONDENT
RAJAHMUNDRY, JULY 16

Due to the pipeline being shut down, the ONGC has closed down 70 of its 152 on-shore wells in KG basin and is working on a three-pronged plan.

Full restoration of the pipeline will take six to eight months, which is part of the long-term plan.

ONGC, meanwhile, has closed down its wells in Adavipalem, Mori, Kesinapally West, Tatipaka, Pasarlupudi and Ponnammamda, most of them in the Amalapuram area, which produce 80 per cent of ONGC's gas in KG on land. The wells of Gopavaravam, Kaikuluru, Lingala and few other areas in Krishna and West Godavari are operating.

The entire GAIL pipeline network was shut down after the June 27 incident for safety reasons and ONGC had begun closing its wells from then.

GAIL has approximately 870 km of natural gas pipeline in Andhra Pradesh. The installed capacity of the network is 15.9 MMSCMD of natural gas, while only about five MMSCMD is being supplied as sources like ONGC and RIL are not in full production.

Post the pipeline explo-

ONGC STEPS UP SPF VIGIL ALONG PIPELINES

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Patrolling teams of the Special Protection Force have intensified their vigil along the installations, wells and major pipeline units of the ONGC.

ONGC asset executive director P.K. Rao said the SPF teams are patrolling along the pipeline in East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna districts in the aftermath of the Nagaram explosion.

Mr Rao said, "The total length of pipelines maintained by ONGC is around 740 km. The pipelines are not old. We have replaced around

500-km stretch recently, and we have plans in next few years to replace the remaining 284 km of pipeline. Our revenue teams are in negotiations with the farmers as the pipelines are laid under the ground. On getting an approval from the farmers, we will replace the lines. This process will be taken up during the non-crop season in summer."

Apart from the SPF, CISF personnel, ONGC security staff and private security guards are appointed at the installations. A three-tier safety monitoring system in addition to the existing one has been rolled out.

sion, GAIL has reduced the supplies to 0.2 MMSCMD of natural gas as safety checks are being carried out.

The major consumers of natural gas from GAIL, like Nagarajuna Fertilisers and gas-based power plants like GVK, Reliance, Spectrum Power, GMR, APGPDC and Lanco, are hit. The Steel Ex-

change India Limited based at Kothapet in Mandapet (steel melting and power plant division), which is supplied 40,000 cubic metres per day from ONGC through GAIL has also been affected.

The Srivastava power plant at Tatipaka is also hit due to non-supply of 10,000 cubic metres of gas.

The fertiliser production

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— A SOURCE, ONGC

at NFCL is also suffering and it has stopped production of 4,600 tonnes of urea per day as its not getting supply.

A sources in ONGC said, "We have 152 operational wells of both gas and oil. Most of the gas wells, situated in Konaseema, are closed post the incident."

When contacted, ONGC asset executive director P. Krishna Rao said that the production of 27 lakh cubic metres per day of gas was being held back and it would be made operational after the GAIL pipeline was restored.

Industry sources said though there is a flexibility built into the system to maintain alternate minimum supply to consumers, the entire network has been shut down for the time being as a precautionary measure.