



पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस विनियामक बोर्ड
Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board
प्रथम तल, वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर, बाबर रोड, नई दिल्ली – 110001
1st Floor, World Trade Centre, Babar Road, New Delhi – 110001

PNGRB/Monitoring/7/Misc-ConsProt/(4)/2024

1st February, 2024

ORDER

Subject: Constitution of a high-level Expert Committee to review the extant consumer protection provisions in the PNGRB Act, 2006 and recommend a way forward to ensure comprehensive consumer protection framework

PNGRB has been constituted under the PNGRB Act, 2006 with an aim to regulate the downstream sector so as to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country. As per section 11(a) of the PNGRB Act, 2006 the functions of the Board include "protect the interest of consumers by fostering fair trade and competition amongst the entities". PNGRB desires to effectively implement the above mandate and put in place appropriate practices and regulations for protection of consumers in Oil and Gas Sector in the country.

2. With a view to obtain guidance from industry and experts, it has been decided to constitute a committee consisting of following members to recommend the way ahead: -

Sr. No	Name	Designation and Organisation	Position
1	Shri Ratan P Watal	Chairman, CVOC (Former Finance Secretary), GoI	Chairman
2	Shri K K Gupta	Former Director (Marketing), BPCL	Member
3	Shri S C Batra	Former Member (Legal) - PNGRB	Member
4	Shri K Rajeshwar Rao	Principal Adviser, CVOC, GoI	Member
5	Shri Nitin Patil	Former CEO, Gujarat Gas	Member
6	Shri Ashok Pendse	Consumer Activist	Member
7.	Shri S C Gupta	Joint Adviser I/C (Monitoring), PNGRB	Member Secretary

3. The following Terms of Reference is provided for Committee's work: -

- (i) To examine & suggest measures for effective implementation of Section 11(f) (i) to (vi) of PNGRB Act, 2006.
- (ii) To examine scope of powers of Board under section 12 (1) of PNGRB Act, 2006.
- (iii) To examine existing Regulations of PNGRB and suggest mechanism to ensure effective implementation of Section 11(a) r/w Preamble to PNGRB Act, 2006.
- (iv) To clarify avoidance of conflict with existing provisions relating to consumer protection in other statutes.
- (v) To examine existing provisions for appointment of Ombudsman with regard to protection of consumer interest in other regulatory bodies and suggest institution of a suitable mechanism in oil & gas sector.

4. The Committee may seek views of the Oil and Gas sectoral experts, consumer fora etc. on the above areas and submit its final Report in three months from date of this Order.
5. Honorarium of Rs 35,000/- for the Chairman, Rs 25,000/- for each member and Rs 20,000/- for each eminent expert will be admissible for attending any meeting. In addition, for outstation members, travel, boarding and lodging arrangements would be made by PNGRB.
6. This has been issued with the approval of the competent authority.

Vandana Sharma

(Vandana Sharma)
Secretary

Copy to:

1. **Committee Members**
2. **Secretary, MoPNG – for information please.**