

Chapter-34

Energy and Mineral Resources Division

1.0. Introduction

- 1.1. Energy is one of the main driving forces of socio-economic development, poverty reduction and industrialization of any country. There is no alternative to an effective and modern energy sector. Realizing the necessity of adequate energy supply the government has declared this sector as priority one. The key objective of Energy and Mineral Resources Division is to ensure energy for the country through exploration, development, production, import, distribution and sound management of different sources of energy and mineral resources.
- 1.2. The prime sources for non –renewable energy of Bangladesh are natural gas. Natural gas is mainly used for electricity generation, fertilizer production, industrial activities, CNG and household activities. Moreover, almost the entire demand for commercial use of energy is met by natural gas. Thus natural gas is regarded as one of the main driving forces of the economy. Since discovery of the first gas field in 1955 a total of 27 such fields have been discovered so far. The last gas field Bhola was discovered in 2018. At present, about 2700-2750 mmcf/d natural gas is produced from 110 wells in 20 producing gas fields. Sum of the recoverable proven possible reserves is 27.12 trillion cubic feet, of which, as of December 2017, total 15.22 trillion cubic feet gas was produced leaving 12.54 trillion cubic feet as remaining reserve. Indeed this division is playing a pivotal role for gas exploration and its smooth distribution.

2.0. Major Functions of the Ministry

- ❖ Formulation of Acts and Rules related to oil, natural gas, liquid petroleum products and mineral resources;
- ❖ Formulation of policy related to energy, gas and different types of minerals except radioactive minerals;
- ❖ Management of subjects mentioned in the Bangladesh Mineral Exploration and Development Corporation Order 1972 now merged with Petrobangla and government's responsibilities mentioned therein;
- ❖ Administration, planning, programming and management of programmes related to geological survey.
- ❖ Administration and control Geological Survey of Bangladesh, Bureau of Mineral Development, Department of Explosives, Bangladesh Petroleum Institute. Petrobangla Hydrocarbon Unit and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

3.0. Strategic objectives of The Ministry and their Relevance with Women's Advancement and Rights

- 3.1 **Ensuring energy security:** All the people of the country are expected to get benefits from energy production by being provided energy facilities in line with the increased oil and gas reserve. Women as half of the total population will be also benefitted from this. Accelerated development of the economy resulting from the initiatives like capacity building in the exploration, development and production of gas has put positive impact on women's development and poverty reduction.
- 3.2 **Ensuring efficient use of energy and its supply throughout the country:** Women are being benefitted from the expansion of gas distribution in household activities. It has become possible to assist women's advancement who are engaged in agriculture and irrigation, by Supplying adequate fuel according to demand.
- 3.3 **Expanded reserve of non-oil and gas mineral resources:** Exploration of mineral resources generates employment that contributes to women's Development.

4.0. Roles and Responsibilities of the Ministry for Women's Advancement and Rights

- 4.1. Energy and Mineral Resources Division is working to ensure uninterrupted energy supply as per the requirements of common people of the country. Women as half of total population are also the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the services provided by this division. This division is assisting women to improve their productivity increase, participation in employment market and involvement in income generating activities in many ways.
- 4.2. Natural gas is widely used as a raw material in various factories and industries. For example gas is one of the main raw materials for the fertilizer industry. The factories and industries create employment opportunities for women and also provide them fertilizers for agricultural production. It is worth mentioning that almost 70-75% female members of landless or near landless families in rural areas work as agriculture labour.
- 4.3. Gas is supplied to the electricity, captive power and CNG sectors. Almost 58% of the electricity is produced by utilizing natural gas. So timely supply of gas to power sector is very essential. Failure to supply of gas to power sector ultimately affects the whole economy which would have adverse impact on all citizens. On the other hand an increase of gas supply in the power and industrial sector increases the investment as well as job opportunity in the country. As a result, women who are living both in the urban and rural areas are getting benefits to upgrade their living standard.

- 4.4. Volume of gas production is being increased daily with its increasing demand. In January 2010 the daily gas production was 2034 million cubic feet and now the total quantity of daily gas supply is 2700-2750 million cubic feet. Net addition of gas to the national grid in fact brings several direct and indirect benefits for women.
- 4.5. Two compressor stations financed by ADB and GOB have been commissioned at Ashuganj and Elenga in FY of 2015-16. As a result, customers have been getting necessary supply of gas at desired pressure.
- 4.6. For the exploration of gas/oil, the whole sea are divided in to 26 blocks. Some international exploration company are working in shallow sea block. For petroleum exploration one contract is done in one block of the deep sea.
- 4.7. Among five coal mines in the country, coal is only extracted from Boropukuria coalmine. About 1(one) million metric ton of coal produced yearly and a coal power plant of 250 MW with 2 units of 125 MW each running on coal from this mine. Another unit of 275MW capacity has been constructed. To increase the production of Barapukuria Coal Mine, feasibility study to increase the ambit of the mine towards north and south directions is in progress. Moreover, appointment of consultants is under process for conducting feasibility study to extract coal commercially from Dighipara Coal Mine. Women are directly or indirectly get benefits from electricity connected to national Grid.

5.0. Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

Priority Spending Areas/ Programmes	Impact on Women's Advancement (Direct and Indirect)
1. Exploration of petroleum	Strengthening Gas exploration activities is necessary to meet the increasing national demand for gas. The energy Security of the country will be ensured if new gas fields are discovered. If gas production is increased, energy facility for women will also increase and ultimately raise women's standard of living.
2. Development of the Coal sector	The existing national gas reserve is depleting gradually. As an alternative energy source the development of the coal sector can help ensure energy security. Huge number of workers is required to extract coal from the coal mine. Therefore development of coal sector will create employment opportunity for women.
3. Ensuring uninterrupted supply of fuel oil	Uninterrupted supply of fuel is a must for development of agriculture transport industry and the power sector. If Supply of oil can be ensured it can in turn benefit women workers

Priority Spending Areas/ Programmes	Impact on Women's Advancement (Direct and Indirect)
	working in different areas.
4. Expansion of gas network and its efficient use	If maximum gas supply is ensured through expansion of the gas network both small and large industries will be helpful for the economic development of the country. With this rural women will be benefited.
5. Reduction of system losses and enhancement of operational efficiency	Government subsidy to this sector can be reduced significantly if revenue collections are increased through reducing systems losses by enhancing operational skills in marketing of Oil and strengthening the realization of arrears. As women are directly and indirectly involved in gas use -this will have positive impact on women development.

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2017-18			Revised 2016-17			Budget 2016-17		
	Budget	Women Share		Revised	Women Share		Budget	Women Share	
		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent
Total Budget	464574	136938	29.48	371495	86169	23.2	400266	112019	27.99
Ministry Budget	1985	262	13.2	1441	173	11.98	2224	365	16.41
Development	1820	260	14.31	1346	171	12.69	2111	358	16.96
Non-Development	165	2	0.92	94	2	1.8	113	7	6.19

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

- 7.1. Gas is being used for domestic purpose in households in this country. Both the extraction and use of gas have increased recently. As a result women involved in household activity of urban areas have got some relief. Due to gas use they can finish their cooking within a short period of time. Consequently it enhances their skill as well as reduces their health related risks. In FY 2016-17 per day 423 Million CF gas have been supplied for household works. Besides, customer can easily purchase cylinders from respective dealers as its supply has considerably been increased.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ Recognizing the contribution of women's role in natural resource protection management and environment security equal participation of women have to be considered in the environment protection policy and programs;
- ❖ Efforts will be made to identify employment opportunities for women in the Energy and Mineral resources Sector. This division will take appropriate

measures to highlight the role of women in energy savings and will supply gas to small entrepreneurs;

- ❖ Ensure the use of LP gas in domestic purpose of 70% area of the country within 2018, aiming to save the working time, reduce the health risk and engage woman in the income generating activities and insure the safety livelihood;
- ❖ Currently in rural areas majority of women use traditional biomas as cooking fuel which is serious health hazard to women. Moreover, these fuel used in an inefficient manner. Clean cooking fuel including improved cooking stove can be widely introduced by taking appropriate policy intervention, suitable technology and adequate budget.