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# No gas supply to household consumers in Rajshahi, Khulna

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DWELLERS of Rajshahi and Khulna cities are not getting gas supply in near future despite assurances by the government leaders.

'Only the industrial consumers will get the supply there,' the energy secretary, Mohammad Mesbahuddin, informed newsmen at a briefing on energy sector development at Ruposhi Bangla hotel in the city Monday.

Finance minister AMA Muhith, prime minister's adviser Tawfiq-Elahi Chowdhury, state minister for power and energy Mohammad Enamul Haque, power and energy ministry standing committee chairman Subid Ali Bhuiyan, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission chairman Syed Yusif Hossain and Petrobangla chairman Hussain Monsur were present at the briefing.

Muhith said the gap between demand and supply of gas would come to a balancing position by 2013 on completion of on-going projects.

He said for the first time the government had taken step to reduce its dependence only on a single source for energy supply.

At the function, Tk 1650 crore agreement was signed between Gas Transmission Company of Bangladesh

and Indian MAN Industries Ltd for supplying of pipes for construction of a 137 km 36-inch dia pipeline from Bibiyana Gas Field in Sylhet to Dhanua near Gazipur.

The Indian company will supply the pipes only and later the construction work will be awarded to another company to set the pipeline through another tender.

The contract to the Indian company was awarded under the recently enacted Power and Energy Quick Supply Augmentation (Special Provision) Act 2010. Under this law, invitation of tender is not required to award a contract.

Responding to questions Tawfiq Elahi said construction work would be completed by 2013 to enhance gas supply. He disagreed with the suggestion that the project completion time is an ambitious one.

The energy secretary said about 50 wells at different gas field would be drilled by 2015 to add 2300 million cubic feet of gas per day to the national grid.

Tawfiq Elahi said the government increased 20 per cent gas supply in last 3 years.

Hussain Monsur said the gap between demand and supply was now more than that of BNP regime because of huge growth in the economy.