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**KARACHI:** The LPG industry has criticised Sui Northern Gas Pipelines (SNGPL) for failing to establish LPG air mix plants as directed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources. The country faces a gas crisis and the situation is worsening day by day due to the non serious attitude of the major players, sources report. In order to mitigate the gas crisis the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources had SSGC and SNGPL re-enter the LPG business after a gap of 12 years. These companies were tasked with establishing LPG air mix plants to deal with the gas crisis. SSGC currently has four LPG air mix plants operating in remote areas of Balochistan and Sindh whereas SNGPL has been unable to establish any so far. The SNGPL management created a new LPG department over a year ago to meet the shortage of gas in the country. It hired a team of 12 new officers on a permanent basis, providing them lucrative salaries and benefits. Initially, SNGPL issued a tender for setting up of a 50 MMCFD LPG air mix plant in August 2012 but the tender was cancelled without any reason. During this time it also hired the services of an independent expert to evaluate LPG air mix plants and millions of rupees were paid to this expert, sources said. It then issued a tender for installing projects in January and spent eight months evaluating the bids received. However the tenders were subsequently cancelled. These tenders have been advertised again and industry people are not certain whether the process will be taken forward. This entire process of issuing and reissuing tenders shows a complete non-serious attitude on the part of the SNGPL management and its inability and unwillingness to install LPG air mix projects, said a bidder, who requested anonymity.

Courtesy: The News