GSM BASED GAS LEAKAGE DETECTION SYSTEM

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Abstract— **Gas leakage is a major problem with industrial sector, residential premises and gas powered vehicles like CNG (compressed natural gas) buses, cars. One of the preventive methods to stop accident associated with the gas leakage is to install gas leakage detection kit at vulnerable places. The aim of this paper is to present such a design that can automatically detect and stop gas leakage in vulnerable premises. In particular gas sensor has been used which has high sensitivity for propane (C_3H_8) and butane (C_4H_{10}). Gas leakage system consists of GSM (Global System for mobile communications) module, which warns by sending SMS. However, the former gas leakage system cannot react in time. This paper provides the design approach on both software and hardware.**

Keywords: **GSM (Global System for mobile communications), CNG (compressed natural gas), LPG (Liquefied petroleum gas), Gas sensor MQ-6, stepper motor Driver IC (ULN2003A), Microcontroller (AT89C51), LCD (Liquid crystal display), RF (Radio Frequency) link, Decoder HT12D, Encoder HT12E.**

I. INTRODUCTION

LPG consists of mixture of propane and butane which is highly flammable chemical. It is odorless gas due to which Ethanethoil is added as powerful odorant, so that leakage can be easily detected. There are other international standards like EN589, amyl mercaptane and tetrahydrothiophene which are most commonly used as odorants. LPG is one of the alternate fuels used now days. Sometimes liquefied petroleum gas is also known as LPG, LP gas, Auto gas etc. This gas is commonly used for heating appliances, hot water, cooking, and various other purposes also. LPG is also used as an alternate fuel in vehicles due to soaring in the prices of petrol and diesel.

Some people have low sense of smell, may or may not respond on low concentration of gas leakage. In such a case, gas leakage security systems become an essential and help to protect from gas leakage accidents. A number of research papers have been published on gas leakage security system [1-13]. Embedded system for Hazardous gas detection and Alerting has been proposed in literature [7]. Where the alarm is activate immediately, if the gas concentration exceeds normal level.

Bhopal gas tragedy was an example of gas leakage accident in India. This was world's worst gas leakage industrial accident.

Gas leakage detection is not only important but stopping leakage is equally essential. This paper provides a cost effective and highly accurate system, which not only detect gas leakage but also alert (Beep) and turn off main power and gas supplies, and send an SMS. GSM module is used which alert the user by sending an SMS [2]. In order to provide high accuracy gas sensor MQ-6 has been used.

II. METHODOLOGY USED

The functionality of system is divided into three main steps. The fig. 1 shows the block diagram of gas leakage security system.
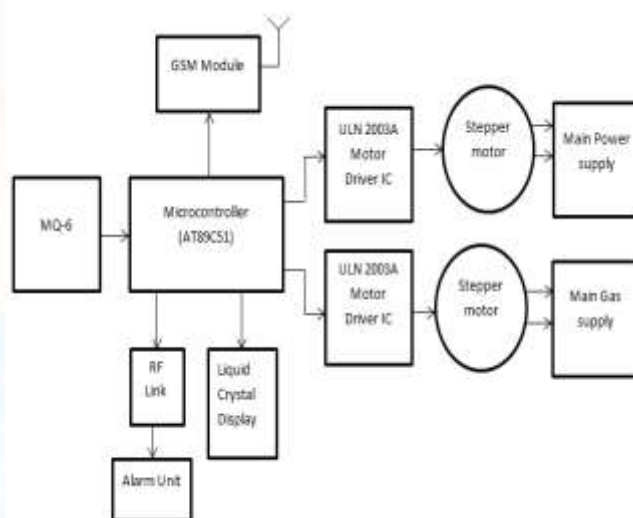

Fig. 1 Block diagram of gas leakage security system.

In the initial step, the gas leakage is detected by the gas sensor MQ-6. This detects the gas leakage and gives the signal to the microcontroller with the help of ADC. After that in second step the microcontroller receive the signal, send by gas sensor. It sends activation signal to other external devices attached with it. Such as two stepper motor IC (ULN 2003A), buzzer, LCD (Liquid crystal display), GSM module [10] and RF link. In the last step, many tasks have been performed such as buzzer activates simultaneously message display on liquid crystal display screen, GSM module activated, which send warning SMS to the user. Stepper motor IC (ULN 2003A) to drives the stepper motor attached it, as a result main power and

gas supplies turn off. At the end, when the gas leakage is successfully stopped then with the help of reset button the whole system reached to the initial stage.

A. MQ-6 Gas Sensor

MQ6 is a semiconductor type gas sensor which detects the gas leakage. The sensitive material of MQ-6 is tin dioxide (SnO_2). It has very low conductivity in clean air [4]. This Gas sensor not only has sensitivity to propane and butane but also to other natural gases, low sensitivity to cigarette smoke and alcohol. The MQ-6 gas sensor is shown in fig. 2. This sensor can also be used for detection of other combustible gas such as methane.

Fig. 2 MQ-6 gas sensor [5]

The concentration range of MQ-6 gas sensor is 300-1000 ppm. This sensor is available in 6 pins package, out of which 4 pins are used for fetching the signals and other 2 pins are used for providing heating current. This sensor has fast response time.
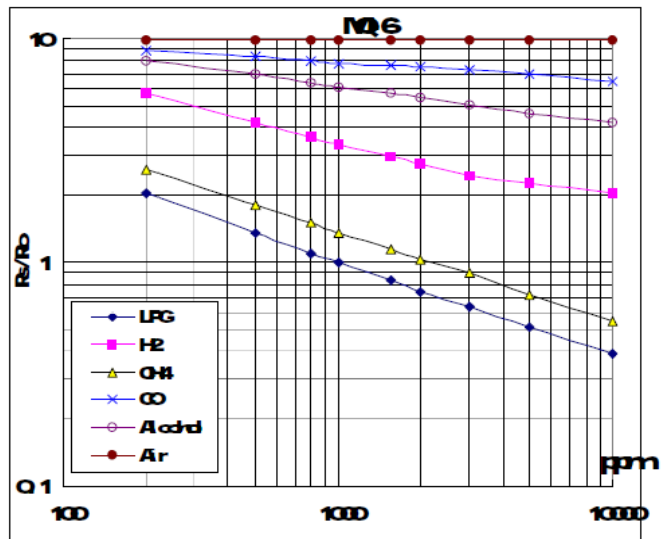

Fig.3 shows the typical sensitivity characteristics of the MQ-6 gas sensor for several gases.

The power need by the sensor is 5V. This sensor has different resistance value in different concentration. For an example, if we calibrate the MQ-6 gas sensor to the 1000ppm of propane concentration in air, then the resistance value would be approximately 20kΩ. The change in the resistance value with respect to the concentration as discussed above is shown in fig. 3.

B. GSM Receiver

GSM module is used to send an SMS to the user cell phone [8]. When the gas leakage is detected by the gas sensor, microcontroller sends a signal to GSM module [2], in which one of the tasks is to send the text SMS. GSM module requires one SIM card [17]. This module is capable to accept any network SIM card. Fig. 4 shows a GSM module IC(Integrated circuit). This module has a unique identity number like mobile phones have. These module works on 12V DC supply [18]. We can send SMS and also send a voice message. These SMS or voice messages are saved in the microcontroller memory. Multiple SMSs can also be sends to user, police and fire station etc.

Fig. 4 GSM module IC

C. Stepper motor Driver

Two stepper motor has been used, both are connected to the stepper motor driver IC (ULN 2003A). A 12V external DC supply has been given to the stepper motor [9]. The main purpose of the stepper motor is to turn off the main power and Gas supply. One motor is used to turn off the main power supply. Motor is attached to a main switch in such a way that when a motor rotates 60°, then immediately power supply turn off. Now on the other hand, the second motor turns off the main gas supply. A mechanically coupled stepper motor to main gas knob, so that when motor rotates 180° then immediately the knob close.

D. Radio Frequency

RF transmission system composed of Amplitude Shift Keying (ASK) with the transmitter/receiver (Tx/Rx) pair, operating at frequency of 434 MHz. Transmitter modules takes serial input and transmits it through RF. Receiver module receives signals which are transmitted by transmitter module placed away from it. The RF module has been used with a set of four channels Encoder/Decoder ICs. HT12E & HT12D have been used as encoder and decoder ICs respectively. The encoder converts the parallel inputs into serial signals. These signals are serially

transferred through RF. The decoders are used after the receiver to decode the signal and obtain the original signals as an output. These outputs can be easily observed on the corresponding LEDs. The block diagram of RF transmission is shown in fig. 5.
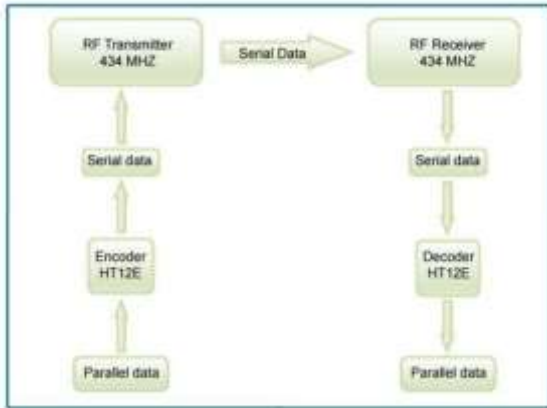

Fig. 5 Block diagram of RF transmission system

III. RESULT

The prototype of the gas leakage security system has been shown in fig. 6. This system has been tested by taking a small amount of LPG gas near to the sensor. MQ-6 gas sensor detects the LPG gas and sends a signal to the microcontroller. After that microcontroller send an active signal to other externally connected devices. As a result a buzzer rings and a message is display on LCD screen. Simultaneously main power and gas supply turns off with the help of stepper motor and GSM module send an SMS [3]. When reset button is pressed, the system refreshes itself and whole system regains its initial position.

Fig. 6 Prototype model of proposed system

IV. CONCLUSION

In this system we have describe a new approach for gas leakage detection system at a low concentration. The leakage is detected with the help of MQ-6 gas sensor. Sensor sends a signal to microcontroller. In the next step microcontroller sends an active signal to other externally connected devices. The efficiency and memory of the microcontroller can be increased if Philips microcontroller is used in place of AT89C51.multiple SMS can be send by changing programming GSM module. To change the SIM card we have to make changes in program.
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