

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3547
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000
EXPLORATION OF METHANE GAS
RAMAKANT SOIRU ANGLE

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government have undertaken the exploration of coal based methane gas;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, and
- (c) the areas identified for such exploration?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (c) : ONGC has been granted Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in North Raniganj in West Bengal. ONGC has also initiated exploration of CBM as an R&D Project and has drilled six wells - two in Durgapu in West Bengal and four in Parbatpur block in Jharia coal field as part of its R&D activity.

The Government of India has approved the policy for exploration and exploitation of CBM in the country. This policy provides for offer of blocks for exploration and exploitation of CBM through open global competitive bidding. Nine blocks have been identified in the states of Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh and consultations have been initiated with the concerned state Governments on the offer of blocks.