

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6245  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010  
TAPPING OF NATURAL GAS IN MINES  
Panda Shri Prabodh

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is lack of facilities to tap natural gas found in the mines for its commercial exploitation in the Eastern region and the same has to be burnt causing a huge loss to the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide facilities in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the remedial measures taken / proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (f): Natural Gas is a gas consisting primarily of methane. Coal Bed Methane (CBM) is the methane gas associated with coal mines. If extracted from the virgin seams the operation is called CBM extraction and if the methane gas is extracted from the operating coal mines, the same is known as extraction of Coal Mine Methane (CMM). Till date, Government of India has allotted 26 blocks for exploration and exploitation of CBM in the country including the eastern region. CBM development is already an ongoing commercial activity in the country and entrepreneurs are fully equipped with the technology in association with their principals abroad.