

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:57

ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010

SHALE GAS RESERVES

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Sivasami Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has worked out a policy framework for shale gas;
- (b) if so, whether any discussion in this regard has been held with the US Geological Survey for sharing of knowledge and technology;
- (c) if so, the details of the outcome thereof?
- (d) whether shale gas exploration is different from oil and gas exploration;
- (e) if so, whether the Union Government has evaluated the potential of shale gas in country;and
- (f) if so, the number of blocks identified therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question no. 57 for answer on 11.11.2010 regarding 'Shale Gas Reserves'

(a) to (c).Considering the importance and potential, Government has initiated actions to formulate a policy on Shale Gas. During the visit of the President of the United States of America (USA) to India, Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of USA on Shale Gas Resources. Under the MOU, both the countries would cooperate in the following areas of Shale Gas development:

Shale Gas Resource assessment in India.

Technical studies on Shale Gas exploration in India.

Share best practices on establishing a regulatory framework and safeguard measures for the sustainable development of Shale Gas.

Promoting sustainable domestic and foreign investment in Shale Gas development.

(d) Yes, Madam. In case of exploration of conventional oil and gas, oil/gas migrates from the source rocks and is trapped in reservoir rocks such as sandstone or limestone. The shale gas, however, is found in source rock itself. The gas is stored in shales and is produced through drilling of horizontal wells followed by multi- stage hydro-fracturing techniques.

(e) &(f) Government has initiated actions to identify the potentially prospective areas for Shale Gas resources as well as to formulate a policy. Based on the identification of prospective areas and resource assessment and after formulating an appropriate policy for exploration and exploitation of Shale Gas resources, blocks would be carved out and offered for bidding.