

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4933
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2010
POLICY ON SHALE GAS EXPLORATION
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has a policy on Shale gas exploration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the country has any economically viable reserves of shale gas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any Indian or foreign company has been able to spuda shale gas well in India;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the cost of exploring shale gas as compared to other Hydro-carbons like Oil/LNG etc.;
- (h) the percentage of the energy mix of the developed and major developing economies like the BRIC countries, does shale gas constitute;
- (i) the commercial production of shale gas in financial terms when juxtaposed against other Hydro-carbons delivered at the pump; and
- (j) the other non-traditional hydro- carbons that the Government is exploring to broaden its energy mix?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

- (a) to (d). Considering the importance and potential, Government has initiated actions to formulate a policy on Shale Gas. Detailed studies are being taken up to identify the prospective basins/areas and estimation of Shale Gas resources in the country.
- (e) to (g). As a part of R & D project, a shale gas well in Raniganj basin (RNSG-I) has been spudded by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited(ONGC) and drilling is in progress. As Shale Gas exploration is in R&D stage, comparison of cost of exploration to other hydro-carbons cannot be made.
- (h). United States of America (USA) and Canada are the two major countries which have commercially exploited Shale Gas resources. In USA, Shale Gas reportedly accounts for about 17% of the total Gas production.
- (i) In India, Shale Gas exploration has not entered the commercial stage.
- (j) Amongst the unconventional hydro-carbon sources, Coal Bed Methane is being commercially produced. However, other unconventional sources such as Gas Hydrate and Oil Shale are presently in the research and development stage.