

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:53
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011
DEVELOPMENT OF COAL BED METHANE
Patel Shri Bal Kumar

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

- (a) whether plans have been undertaken for the development of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the country;
- (b) if so, the budgetary allocation made and utilization thereof during the last two years and the current year;
- (c) whether commercial production of CBM has commenced; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N.SINGH)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts

(a) to

(d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question no. 53 for on 24.02.2011 regarding 'Development of Coal Bed Methane'

(a) In order to harness the Coal Bed Methane(CBM) potential in the country, Government of India formulated a CBM Policy in year 1997 and implemented it in 2000. The Policy has provided a level playing field for exploration and commercial exploitation of CBM by national and international companies.

So far, 33 CBM blocks have been awarded. Out of 33 blocks, 30 CBM blocks have been awarded in the first four rounds of CBM, two CBM blocks have been awarded on nomination basis and one through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board(FIPB) route.

(b) Government does not make any investment in CBM blocks for exploration, development and production activities. The entire investment is made by the Contractors for carrying out the committed work programme, field development and production activities in CBM blocks. The investment commitment by the operators for activities during the last two years (2008-09 & 2009-10) and the current year (2010-11) was around Rs 1460 Crore. Out of these, about Rs. 1235 Crore has been expended by different operators of CBM blocks during last two years and in the current year.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam. Commercial production of CBM started in July 2007 from Ranigarj (South) block in the State of West Bengal operated by M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited (GEECL). Presently, CBM gas production from this block is around 1, 46,000 cubic meter per day.