

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2381

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2011

SHALE GAS EXPLORATION

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

- (a) whether the Government is formulating a new policy for Shale gas production in the country;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the status of the project;
- (c) whether some other countries including United States are helping the country in development of this sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the total potential of this gas in the country;
- (f) whether shale gas production is likely to relieve the county from shortage of gas and gas products; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Government has initiated action to identify potentially prospective areas of Shale Gas resources as well as to formulate a policy for its exploration and exploitation. Based on the identification of prospective areas and resource assessment and after formulating an appropriate policy, steps would be taken for exploration and exploitation of Shale Gas resources in the country.

(c) & (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Shale Gas Resources between India and United States of America (USA) was signed in November, 2010. 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.

(e) to (g) Based on the geo-scientific data gathered so far during exploration of conventional oil and gas, few onland sedimentary basins/areas in India appear to be prospective in terms of Shale Gas deposits. However, detailed studies are being taken up to identify the prospective basins/areas and estimation of Shale Gas resources in the country. The reserves and production potential of Shale Gas will be known only after resource estimation, award of blocks and subsequent exploration and production activities to be carried out in the awarded blocks.