

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:605

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011

EXPLORATION OF SHALE GAS

Ramasubbu Shri S., Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to find out the deposits and exploration of shale gas to compensate the increasing demand of petroleum products in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the areas which are identified in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which the shale gas is likely to be explored and the steps taken to meet the challenges on environmental point of view on its exploration?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b). Yes, Madam. Government has initiated steps for the assessment of shale gas resources in selected onland basins as well as to formulate a Shale Gas Policy. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Department of State (DOS), United States of America was signed in November, 2010 for co-operation in the field of Shale Gas development. As per the MoU, United States Geological Survey (USGS) has been carrying out resource assessment for Cambay, KG, Cauvery & Damodar Basins for which relevant data was handed over to USGS by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) in January, 2011.

(c) The exploration of shale gas in India will depend on the completion of resource assessment, framing of Shale Gas Policy including addressing environmental issues and award of blocks through bidding.