

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2652
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012
NATURAL GAS REQUIREMENT
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao

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

- (a) whether strategic plan of the Government for 2011-16 has identified action plan to meet the natural gas requirement of the country through import via trans-national pipelines and LNG;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for not emphasising the need to enhance domestic resources;
- (c) whether the Government has accorded higher priority for development of LNG/imported gas through pipeline compared to domestic gas;
- (d) whether as per Government's revised assessment, domestic resources in India are not of commercial interest and have not assigned any priority for domestic resource development; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government plans to continue with award of blocks under New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP)?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): In order to increase availability of natural gas in the country, the Government is pursuing several options one of which is import of natural gas through transnational pipelines, viz., Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) and Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline. The availability of natural gas on a long term basis, would be beneficial for the country's economy in the long run.
- (c): No, Madam.
- (d): The perceptions of the investors about the hydrocarbon prospectivity of India have changed after major oil discovery in Rajasthan and gas discoveries in East Coast. In order to accelerate the pace of exploration and production of domestic oil and gas, a total of 248 Production Sharing Contracts have been signed under NELP. So far, 107 oil/gas discoveries have been made in 36 blocks, including the major gas discoveries in East Coast. The current oil and gas production from 6 NELP discoveries are about 14,000 bbl/day and 35 Million Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD) respectively. Further, it is estimated that average CBM production in the country will be about 4 MMSCMD by the year 2016-17 as compared to the current level production of 0.23 MMSCMD.
- (e): No proposal has been received from Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) to launch new round of bidding for oil and gas exploration under NELP.