

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2714

ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012

EVALUATION OF SHALE RESOURCES

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

- (a) the details and the present status of exploration of Shale gas in the country including parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh alongwith the status of completion of resource assessment and framing of Shale Gas Policy;
- (b) whether there has been a delay in carrying out the resource assessment and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the estimates of Shale gas reserves in the country; and
- (d) the time frame by which the bidding process for exploration of Shale gas is likely to be started?

**Answer**

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

(a). A total of 6 basins namely Cambay, Krishna Godavari, Cauvery, Assam-Arakan, Indo - Gangetic & Gondwana have been identified under Phase-I for Shale Gas resource assessment based on Geological, Geophysical and Geochemical data gathered during exploration of conventional oil /gas over the years.

Based on the findings of studies on the potential of Shale Gas resources, the policy on Shale Gas is to be formulated after incorporating views of the concerned Ministries/Departments.

(b) So far, resource assessment for Shale Gas in 3 basins (KG, Cauvery and Cambay) has been done by United States Geological Survey (USGS). Further, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons(DGH) has assigned Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), Ranchi with the task of identification of areas and assessment of Shale Gas potential in Damodar and Sohagpur sedimentary basins.

(c) Different agencies have reported upon the Shale Gas resources in India. Energy Information Administration(EIA), United States of America (April, 2011) has reported a risked gas-in-place of the order of 293 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF) with 69 TCF as recoverable in 4 Indian basins. USGS (January, 2012) has estimated 6.1 TCF as technical recoverable in 3 Indian basins and mention potential for shale oil/gas.

(d) Shale Gas Policy is proposed to be announced tentatively by 31.3.2013. After announcement of Shale Gas Policy, action will be initiated to launch bidding round for exploration of Shale Gas.