

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1060

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012

COAL BED METHANE

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

- (a) whether the companies extracting Coal Bed Methane (CBM) have engaged a single operator to work in CBM blocks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the issue of single operatorship has surfaced as the Ministries of Coal and Petroleum are locked in a turf war on the mining right to be granted to the operators; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas thereon?

Answer

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

(a) and b) So far, 30 Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks have been awarded under four rounds of CBM bidding under CBM Policy. In addition to above, 2 blocks have been awarded earlier on Nomination basis and one through Foreign Investment Promotion Board(FIPB) route. In each CBM block, there is one operator which operates the block. In case the CBM block is awarded to a single company, the same company becomes the operator of the block, while in case of a block awarded to the consortium of different companies, one company is selected by all the consortium partners to operate the block.

(c) & d) The Ministry of Coal (MoC) has awarded certain blocks for coal mining which fall within the areas of some blocks awarded for CBM operation. The modalities for simultaneous operation for CBM and coal mining are being discussed between Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP & NG) and MoC.