

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:741  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013  
COAL BED METHANE  
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the issue of regulating Coal Bed Methane (CBM) along with the initiatives being taken to tap this new energy source ;
- (b) the details of the CBM blocks awarded to various companies in the fourth round of bidding location-wise ;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review its CBM policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS ( SHRIMATI PANABAANKA LAKSHMI)

(a) In order to exploit Coal Bed Methane (CBM) resources in the country Government of India formulated CBM policy in 1997. The current status of CBM activities in the country is as under:

- i) So far, total 33 CBM block have been awarded, out of which 3 blocks have been relinquished by the Contractors, citing poor prospectivity.
- ii) Field Development Plans (FDPs) have been approved for 6 CBM blocks and FDPs for another 2 CBM blocks are currently under examination after submission by the Contractors.
- iii) About 9.12 TCF of CBM reserves have been established in 6 CBM blocks till date.
- iv) An investment to the tune of Rs. 2400 Crores have been made by the Contractors in CBM blocks.
- v) Current CBM production is about 0.3 MMSCMD which is projected to reach to the level of 4 MMSCMD by 2016-17. The Contractors have reported several reasons affecting the CBM activities such as difficulties in Land Acquisition, overlapping issues with coal mines etc. The concerned State Governments and Central Government extend all possible support and co-operation to the Contractors to resolve such issues. In order to resolve the overlapping issues, MoP&NG and Ministry of Coal (MoC) have prepared a Draft Policy along with Agreement for Co-development of Coal and CBM, which is currently under finalization.

(b) A total of 7 CBM blocks were awarded under fourth round of bidding to various companies. The details are as below:

SL NO.	COAL FIELD/	BLOCK NAME	CONSORTIUM (PARTICIPATING INTEREST)	DATE OF APPROX SIGNING	AREA (SQ.KM.)
1	Raj Mahal/	Jharkhand CBM- 2008/IV	RM(E)- Oil Limited (100%)	Essar	29.07.10 1128
2	Talchir /	Orissa 2008/IV	TL-CBM- Oil Limited (100%)	Essar	29.07.10 557

3 Ib Valley / IB-CBM- Essar 29.07.10 209  
Orissa 2008/IV Oil  
Limited  
(100%)

4 Sohagpur / SP(NE)- Essar 29.07.10 339  
Madhya CBM- Oil  
Pradesh & 2008/IV Limited  
Chhattisgarh (100%)

5 Satpura / ST-CBM- Dart Energy - 29.07.10 714  
Madhya 2008/IV Tata Power  
Pradesh (80%-20%)

6 North East / AS-CBM- Dart Energy - 29.07.10 113  
Assam 2008/IV Oil India  
(60%-40%)

7 Mannargudi / MG-CBM- Great Eastern 29.07.10 667  
Tamil Nadu 2008/IV Energy Corporation  
Ltd. (100%)

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.