

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5203

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2013

COAL BED METHANE

Choudhary Shri Harish

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

- (a) whether certain reserves of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) have been found in the country including Western Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the exploration works carried out so far State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of CBM blocks allocated to various companies by the Union Government in western Rajasthan and Gujarat;
- (d) whether the ONGC was allocated CBM blocks in Rajasthan's Barmer and Sanjore and Gujarat in the second phase of CBM policy of the Union Government but the ONGC has surrendered the said blocks and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps for exploration of underground lignite in western Rajasthan; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : So far, Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Gas in Place volume of about 9.12 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF) has been established in six CBM blocks in the States of West Bengal (2), Jharkhand (2) and Madhya Pradesh (2). However, CBM reserve is yet to be established in the CBM blocks awarded in Rajasthan.

So far, a total of 33 CBM blocks have been awarded in various States. The details of exploratory works carried out so far in awarded CBM blocks, State-wise, are given as under:

S.No. State Number of Actual Exploration

Blocks Awarded Works Carried out (Core Holes/Test Wells/Pilot Wells)		
1	Gujarat	1 10
2	Rajasthan	4 20
3	West Bengal	4 123
4	Jharkhand	7 89
5	Madhya Pradesh	7 120
6	Andhra Pradesh	2 -
7	Assam	1 -
8	Chhattisgarh	3 39
9	Maharashtra	1 2
10	Odisha	2 -
11	Tamil Nadu	1 -
	Total	33 403

(c) & d): So far, under various CBM bidding rounds, 4 blocks have been awarded in Rajasthan and 1 block in Gujarat as under:

Sr. No Block Name CBM Bidding Round Operator Coal Field/ State

1	BS (1) - CBM-II	RIL	Barmer/Rajasthan
CBM 2003/II			
2	BS (2) - II CBM-II	RIL	Barmer/Rajasthan
CBM-2003/			
3	BS (4) - CBM-III	GEOPETROL	Barmer/Rajasthan
CBM-2005/III			
4	BS (5) - CBM-III	GEOPETROL	Barmer/Rajasthan
CBM 2005/III			
5	BS (3) - CBM-II	ONGC	Barmer-Sanchor/Gujarat
CBM 2003/II			

ONGC, as Operator , was awarded 1 CBM block, namely, BS (3) – CBM-2003/II in Barmer-Sanchor Coal Field. The block falls in the State of Gujarat. ONGC has relinquished this block after drilling of 8 core holes and 2 test wells, citing poor CBM prospectivity.

(e) & (f) : Ministry of Coal (MoC) has reported that, five lignite blocks have been identified for UCG purposes in Rajasthan for offer.