

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4514

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014

ENERGY SECURITY

Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to strengthen relations with energy exporting countries in order to meet the shortage of petroleum products in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Energy Security Conference was organized recently by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps being taken or proposed by the Government to explore possibilities to meet the energy demand in the coming years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SMT. PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b). Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas keeps in close touch with oil and gas producing/energy rich countries through various inter-governmental mechanisms like meetings at the level of Heads of State/Government/Oil Minister; inter-Governmental Agreements; Joint Working Groups; Memoranda of Understanding/Declarations of Cooperation; holding high level conferences to seek engagement with oil and gas producing countries/international oil companies etc.

To strengthen the country's energy security, India's oil companies are being encouraged to adopt a global vision in their pursuit of raw materials and raw materials-producing assets abroad, and to vigorously pursue acquisition of oil & gas assets overseas.

(c) & (d). Energy Security Conference 2013 was held on 27th November, 2013 in New Delhi. It was organized by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and supported by Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Ministry of Power. The conference had sessions on the following issues :

(i) Changing Dynamics of India's Energy Security

(ii) Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in 'Petroleum Sector'

(iii) Creation of a Regional Power Market, and

(iv) Enhancing Power Supply through 'Renewable Energy.'

(e). Following steps are being taken to strengthen the country's energy security:

(i) Indian oil PSUs are pursuing various E&P opportunities in India and abroad to have a balance portfolio of exploratory, developing and producing oil and gas assets. Currently, Indian PSUs have oil and gas assets in 25 countries.

(ii) Besides entering into term contracts with National Oil Companies (NOCs) of middle eastern countries, Indian refiners are also entering into term contracts with NOCs of countries like Nigeria, Angola, Malaysia, Brunei, Azerbaijan, Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, Venezuela from the regions of West Africa, Far East, Latin America etc. Further, efforts are being made for adding new grades of crude oil to enlarge the acceptable crude oil basket through spot procurement for trial processing in the Indian refining system.

(iii) To boost the domestic production of oil & gas, India is intensifying the exploratory efforts in the Indian sedimentary basin through the New Exploration License Policy which provides for a stable fiscal and contract framework for exploration & production of hydrocarbons.

(iv) The Government has also initiated steps for development of alternate sources of hydrocarbons in the unconventional areas like Shale Gas, Coal Bed Methane, Gas Hydrates etc.

(v) The Government is pursuing transnational pipeline project such as Turkmenistan-Afghanistan- Pakistan-India pipeline project,

which envisages transporting gas from Turkmenistan to India.

(vi) The country is building strategic crude oil reserves of 5.33 million metric tonnes capacity.