

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3507
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2009
COAL BED METHANE
Haque Shri Sk. Saidul

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

(a) whether a few companies namely M/s. Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. (GEECL), Essar Oils, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) are engaged in exploring Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the rate of production, details of consumption and the optimum production level to be achieved by each of them alongwith the projected time frame?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b) M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd (GEECL), Essar Oil Ltd. (EOL) and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), are operating one Coal Bed Methane (CBM) block each in the State of West Bengal. Commercial Production commenced since July, 2007 from only Raniganj (South) block, operated by GEECL.

At present, CBM gas production rate from Raniganj South is about 0.11 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD). Apart from internal consumption, the Gas is being sold to local Industries and is also being utilized as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

As per the approved Development Plan, the estimated peak production of gas @ 1.49 MMSCMD is likely to be achieved by 2013 from Raniganj South Block.

The other two CBM blocks, operated by ONGC and EOL, are under exploration phase.