

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:515
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
SHALE GAS PRODUCTION
Mullappally Shri Ramachandran

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

- (a) the present status of Shale Gas exploration in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has identified the potential of Shale Gas Deposits and proposes to start its commercial production in the coming years; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (c): The Government has, on 14.10.2013, notified the policy guidelines for exploration and exploitation of shale gas and oil by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in their onland Petroleum Exploration Lease (PEL) / Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) blocks awarded under the nomination regimes.

As per the policy, the NOCs will undertake a mandatory minimum work programme in a fixed time frame for shale gas and oil exploration and exploitation, so that there is optimum accretion and development of shale gas and oil resources.

Under the first phase of assessment of shale gas and oil, exploration and exploitation, at present, 56 PEL/PML blocks (ONGC 50, and OIL 6) have been identified by NOCs. These blocks are located in the states of Assam (7 blocks), Arunachal Pradesh (1 block), Gujarat (28 blocks), Rajasthan (1 block), Andhra Pradesh (10 blocks) and Tamil Nadu (9 blocks).

ONGC has drilled one well where coring has been completed. In addition, ONGC has collected cores from another 7 wells.