

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3938

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2015

Exploration of CBM

Parthipan Shri R.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the Coal India Limited (CIL) to take up the exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the country expeditiously with an aim to ramp up its output to at least 5 million standard cubic meters a day from less than 1 million standard cubic meters now and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that CIL has not made any progress despite the Government allowing it to go ahead CBM mining in December, 2013 and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has also decided to join CIL to mine CBM and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)&(b): As per the Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) through Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) had offered 33 coal blocks for exploration and exploitation of CBM out of which 8 blocks have reached development stage. Further, out of these 8 blocks, one block has entered into commercial production of CBM and 4 blocks are producing incidental CBM. As reported by MoPNG, the current level of production of CBM is 1.07 metric million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD). The production of CBM is envisaged to reach 5.77 MMSCMD in 2017-18.

Coal India Limited (CIL) has recently been permitted for exploration and exploitation of coal bed methane from areas under its mining leasehold. This is envisaged to facilitate CIL in taking up CBM/CMM (Coal Mine Methane) projects on commercial lines.

Earlier in 2008, with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Environment Fund (GEF), CIL had successfully implemented a demonstration project for extraction of coal mine methane and its utilization for power generation at Moonidih Mine under Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

(c) Pursuant to the CBM policy, 1997, a consortium of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) & CIL has been allotted two CBM Blocks in 2002 namely, Jharia and Raniganj (North) CBM blocks for commercially exploiting CBM from these blocks. The allotted CBM blocks are not falling within the CIL mining leasehold areas. The work in both the blocks is going on in terms of the provisions made in the contract entered into between Government and consortium of ONGC & CIL. The Government has approved the development plan for both the CBM blocks in 2013 and ONGC being the Operator in both the CBM blocks is taking up the envisaged requisite action. The Government of Jharkhand has granted Petroleum mining lease (PML) for Jharia CBM block to the consortium in July, 2015 which will facilitate taking up further developmental activities.
