

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2426

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015

Development of Hydrocarbon Resources

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce new Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with salient features of the said policy;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any target for production of CBM gas and if so, the details thereof along with efforts made by the Government to achieve the target fixed during the last three years;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to develop alternate energy sources of gas like Hydrocarbon resources and Gas Hydrates;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with names of the places where hydrocarbon/Gas Hydrates are found and the time by which the commercial production likely to be started, State/block/ company-wise; and
- (f) the number of CBM blocks awarded to public/private/foreign companies so far along with gas produced from these blocks, State/block/company-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) & (b): Government of India formulated CBM Policy in 1997. The policy provided for award of CBM blocks through open global competitive bidding under the policy, the bidders were required to bid for ad-valorem Production Level Payments (PLP).

(c): Projected CBM production for next three years are given as under:

*Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter

All figures are in MMSCM*

All figures are in MMSCMD

Projected

Projected

Projected

Projected

Projected

Projected

FY 2015-16

FY 2016-17

FY 2017-18

FY 2015-16

FY 2016-17

FY 2017-18

618.01

1449.85

2106.26

1.69

3.97

5.77

Government is making efforts to remove all impediments in CBM production from awarded blocks viz. delay in grant of statutory clearances, grant of PEL/ML from state Government and overlapping of CBM blocks with Coal blocks etc. Recently, the Government has allowed Coal India Limited (CIL) & its subsidiaries to explore CBM in the Coal Mining Lease area held by them. (d) & (e): Government has taken various measures in order to exploit unconventional hydrocarbon apart from CBM viz. Shale Gas and Gas Hydrate. Details are as under:

i. Shale Gas: Government has announced, on 14th October, 2013 the policy guidelines for exploration and exploitation of Shale Gas and oil by National Oil Companies (ONGC and OIL) in their onland Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) / Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) areas awarded under the nomination regimes. In pursuance of this Policy, ONGC has started shale gas and oil exploration activities in 50 PEL/PML areas in Cambay, Cauvery, Krishna-Godavari and Assam and Arakan Basins. OIL has started shale gas exploration activities in 6 PEL/PML areas in Assam and Rajasthan basins.

In India, Shale gas Blocks are still in exploration stage. The production potential of the blocks will be ascertained after the completion of exploration, appraisal and establishing commerciality. Currently, there is no commercial production of shale gas in the country

ii. Gas Hydrate: The technology for Gas Hydrate exploration and extraction is still in the R&D stage throughout the world. The presence of Gas Hydrates has been established in the basins of Krishna Godavari, Mahanadi and Andaman deep waters offshore. As such commercial production of Gas Hydrates has not commenced anywhere in the world so far.

(f): Details are at annexure-I
