

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2163  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014  
COAL BED METHANE GAS  
Hansdak Shri Vijay Kumar

**Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the extent of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas embedded in the coal mines in the country particularly in Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has awarded 33 blocks for extraction of CBM gas by inviting bids and two blocks have already entered in to commercial production;
- (d) if so, the current status of such blocks;
- (e) whether it is also a fact that due to various reasons, the process has been delayed and is expected result in cost over-runs particularly for Jharkhand; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to address the matter?

**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 Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, the prognosticated Coal Bed Methane resources in the country are about 92 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF). As far as Jharkhand is concerned, a total of 7 Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks have been awarded in this State under the CBM Contract regime. The total CBM resource in the awarded blocks as estimated by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDI) is to the tune of 18.19 TCF. Out of the 7 awarded blocks in Jharkhand, so far Field Development Plans have been approved for 3 CBM blocks, namely, Bokaro, North Karanpura and Jharia, operated by ONGC, and Gas -In-Place volume of about 1.92 TCF has been established.

(c) & (d) The Government has awarded 33 CBM blocks for extraction of CBM gas. Out of the 33 CBM blocks, 30 blocks have been offered through International Competitive Bidding, 2 on Nomination basis and 1 through FIPB (Foreign Investment Promotion Board) route. Out of the 33 CBM blocks, so far only in 1 CBM block, namely, Raniganj (South) in West Bengal, operated by M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. (GEECL), commercial production of CBM has commenced since July, 2007. The average CBM production from this block during (2014-15, till June, 2014) was about 0.37 Million Standard Cubic Meters per Day (MMSCMD). In addition, incidentally produced CBM is also being sold in small quantities from Raniganj (East) block in West Bengal, operated by M/s ESSAR Oil Ltd. and Jharia block in Jharkhand, operated by ONGC. Incidental production of CBM takes place in small quantities during dewatering of CBM wells during the field development activities and is sold to avoid flaring. The current status of awarded 33 CBM blocks are given in Annexure-I.

(e) & (f) Contractors of various CBM blocks have reported delays in exploration and development activities due to issues, such as delay in grant /extension of Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) and grant of Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) by the concerned State Governments and overlapping issues with coal mines and oil/gas Mining Leases etc.

As far as Jharkhand is concerned, applications for grant of PEL extension and PML issuance of 3 active CBM blocks, namely, BK-CBM-2001/1, NK-CBM-2001/I and Jharia, operated by ONGC, are pending since July, 2013 with the State Government of Jharkhand. In order to resolve the issue, MoP&NG has convened a meeting on 27.06.2014 and 10.07.2014 where the representative of Jharkhand Government was advised to submit a clarification for the delay and act upon the pending PML issue without any further delay.