

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Companies Bill

883. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a new Companies Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main reasons for introducing it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. The Companies Bill, 2008 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23.10.2008 has lapsed in view of Article 107(5) of the Constitution. The Government now proposes to re-introduce the Bill as the Companies Bill, 2009 in the Parliament.

(b) and (c) The Government has considered comprehensive revision of the Companies Act, 1956 to enable the Indian corporate laws to keep pace with changes in the economic environment.

Gas production

884. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gas regulation is a bottleneck for the growth of economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps to enhance gas production in the country;

(c) whether eight per cent of India's energy use is met by gas in the country; and

(d) whether Government is working to enhance the gas production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The production of natural gas, both under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and by pre-NELP Joint Ventures, is regulated in accordance with the provisions of Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government & the respective Contractor. Further, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006', so as to *inter alia* promote competitive markets and to protect the interests of entities engaged in activities relating to natural gas, as also interests of customers. PNGRB has notified Regulations with the same objective to attract private participation and to encourage exploration of natural gas.

(c) According to Report of Integrated Energy Policy 2006 by Planning Commission, "8.87% of India's commercial Primary energy is met by Natural Gas".

(d) The Government has adopted multi-pronged strategy to enhance gas production in the country, consisting *inter alia* of the following: -

- i. Intensification of domestic E&P activities through NELP Rounds
- ii. Coal Bed Methane (CBM)
- iii. Underground Coal Gasification
- iv. Gas Hydrates

Allocations for North Eastern Region

885. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocations made during the budgets for 2007-08 and 2008-09, for the Development of North Eastern Region;

(b) how much has been spent from the above allocation and how much is in balance;

(c) whether these allocations are directly received from the Ministry of Finance or are received through various Central Ministries; and

(d) what is the total unspent amount as on the 31st March, 2008?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE):
(a) and (b) The details of allocations made to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region during 2007-08 and 2008-09, the expenditure incurred and the unspent amount are as follows:

	2007-08 (in Rs Cr.)	2008-09 (in Rs. Cr.)
Allocations made	1432.00	1473.25
Expenditure	1406.60	1427.78*
Unspent amount	25.40	45.47*

* Provisional

(c) These allocations are directly received from the Ministry of Finance.

(d) The total unspent amount as on 31st March 2008 was Rs. 25.40 cr.

Waste Disposal

†886. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to install separate plants for disposal of industrial and bio-waste, if so, by when Government would implement this project;

(b) the steps taken by Government to prevent plastic waste; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi