

Districts where Part IX of the Constitution applies. As of now, 22 States out of the 24, covered by Part IX of the Constitution, have constituted the DPCs. The Planning Commission has issued guidelines regarding the district plans on 25th August 2006 in which all the States were advised that the district planning process should be an integral part of the process of preparation of the States' Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012). The Planning Commission has also released a Manual for Integrated District Planning which the States can use as handbook for participatory grassroots level planning.

(c) "Sound finances" of the Panchayats is a Constitutional obligation enjoined on the States by Article 243-I. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is pursuing the States for the devolution of finances based on activity mapping, inclusion of Panchayat Sector in the State budget, timely action on the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions (SFCs) and assignment of adequate and appropriate revenue sources to Panchayats to strengthen the own resources of Panchayats.

The Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended grants amounting to Rs. 20,000 crore for allocation to States in ten equal half yearly installments during the period 2005-06 to 2009-10 to supplement the resources of Panchayats.

Off-shore oil field

1328. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been able to arrest natural decline in crude output from off-shore oil fields through any specialized treatment based on latest technological development taking place around the globe;

(b) if so, whether any financial study has been undertaken to have a cost-benefit analysis to see whether the cost of such specialized treatment is decisively and substantially less than the output increased; and

(c) the total crude oil production from all the off-shore oil fields, whether being manned by ONGC or through blocks leased to private companies, during the years 2007 and 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) ONGC has been able to arrest natural decline in crude production to a great extent from offshore oil fields through implementation of redevelopment schemes and use of new technologies/specialized treatments.

(b) Cost benefit analysis is an integral part of any re-development scheme executed/being executed and new technology or specialized treatments adopted in the fields. The development schemes, technology induction or any specialized treatments are taken up for implementation only after they are found techno-economically feasible.

(c) The details of crude oil production from ONGC offshore fields and fields operated through JV during the last three years are given below:

Year	Crude Oil Production (MMT)	
	ONGC	JV operated
2006-07	17.993	4.671
2007-08	18.020	4.894
2008-09	17.801	4.302

Gas produced by ONGC/OIL

†1329. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the gas produced by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) are called Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) gas and Non-APM gas in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of APM gas and Non-APM gas out of total production;

(c) the consumer sale prices of these gases in March, 2009; and

(d) whether Government is making efforts to increase the prices of APM gas slowly and gradually it proposes to raise it upto the 4.2 dollar per MMSCM unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As informed by ONGC, out of its total production, approximately 97% is APM and 3% is non-APM. As informed by OIL, out of its total production, approximately 88% is APM and 12% is non-APM.

(c) The gas produced of ONGC & OIL is being sold to power and fertilizers sectors at APM rate of Rs.3200/mscm (thousand standard cubic meters) outside North-East and at Rs.1820/mscm in North-East. As regards other APM customers, *i.e.*, Court mandated customers and customers up to 50,000 scmd (standard cubic meters per day), natural gas is sold at Rs.3840/mscm outside North-East and at Rs.2304/mscm in North-East. Further, the gas produced by ONGC and OIL is sold at non-APM rates of US\$4.75/mmbtu (million British thermal unit) in Gujarat, Maharashtra and along HBJ, at Rs.3200/mscm in North-East and at US\$3.86/mmbtu in the rest of the country. The mentioned price excludes royalty, transportation charge, taxes, etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.