

(d) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing a Scheme of Rural Business Hubs (RBHs) for promoting manufacturing of products using raw materials/skills available in the rural areas. Some of these products may reach the export market as well. The scheme works on a 4P (Public- Private- Panchayat- Partnership) model and is applicable in all the BRGF districts and all the districts in the North Eastern Region. Setting up of RBHs is primarily done through convergence of resources from various ongoing schemes. Assistance under the RBH scheme is available for professional support services, training/skill development and for purchase of minor equipment.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Export Import Bank of India for the purpose of enhancing export possibilities of products sources from RBHs. Key activities covered under the MoC are (i) Facilitating identification of suitable exporters, willing to locate their production activities in rural areas, (ii) Fostering a mutually beneficial business relationship between such exporters and rural producers, availing of the support and facilitation of Panchayat, (iii) Facilitating wider visibility and promotion of identified products of RBHs in international markets by linking these products to EXIM Bank's rural portal and by displaying such products at the overseas offices of EXIM Bank, (iv) Familiarizing select RBHs with the process of obtaining Ethical Trading, Fair Trade, Organic certification etc. so that market realization is better.

Comprehensive plan to safeguard the country's resources

2101. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees that all the natural resources belong to the nation;

(b) if so, whether Government has prepared a comprehensive plan to protect and use the same for nation's development;

(c) whether it is a fact that by a privately negotiated settlement, an MoU was signed in May, 2005, between Reliance Industries Ltd., and Reliance Natural Resources Ltd., to distribute natural gas between themselves from the exploration block of KG-D3 Basin; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to nullify the said MoU and release the natural resources for meeting the nation's development needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Article 297 (1) of the Constitution of India states that, "All lands, minerals and other things of value underlying the ocean within the territorial waters, or the continental shelf, or the exclusive economic zone, of India shall vest in the Union and be held for the

purposes of the Union". Entry 53 in the List-I under the Seventh Schedule, *inter alia*, empowers the Union of India in the regulation and development of oilfields and mineral oil resources; petroleum and petroleum products. The Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959, make provisions, *inter alia*, for the regulation of petroleum operations and grant of licences and leases for exploration, development and production of petroleum in India. The Territorial waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act, 1976 provides that Union has sovereign rights for the purpose of exploration, exploitation, conservation & management of the natural resources both living & nonliving as well as for producing energy from tides, winds & currents.

Thus, natural resources belong to Government of India (GOI) and same has been incorporated in Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between GOI and Contractor while awarding any block for exploration purposes.

An MoU dated 18.6.2005 exists between CMD, RIL and CMD, RNRL regarding certain family arrangements. The full text of the MoU is not in the possession of this Ministry. However, the judgment dated 15.6.2009 of the Hon'ble Division bench of Bombay High Court has referred to the MoU. As per para 314 of the judgment, the MoU stipulates that the whole gas after meeting the requirement of NTPC and RNRL, would be appropriated between RIL and RNRL in the ratio of 60:40. MOU also states that this will be the case not only for the gas from KG-D6 but from all other fields being operated and to be operated by RIL. A Special Leave Petition was filed by Government in the Supreme Court against the RNRL and RIL to protect interest of the Government and public at large. The hearings in this case have concluded and decision is reserved by the Hon'ble Court.

Appointment of Lok Karmis for MNREGS

2102. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to provide jobs to over 205 lakh youth by appointing Lok Karmis in each Gram Panchayat to facilitate implementation of its flagship Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS);

(b) whether besides being an interface between workers and various Government agencies like the panchayats, banks and post offices, Lok Karmis would also act as publicity agents in popularizing various welfare schemes by disseminating information about plans and how the poor can derive benefit from it; and

(c) whether they will provide feedback to Government on implementation of MNREGS at grassroots level and need for any high-level intervention wherever necessary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Ministry of Rural Development has formulated a draft Lok Sevak/Lok Karmi Scheme. The