

Exploration in the Non- Conventional Gas Fields

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

(a) whether it is a *fact* that explorations are under way in the non-conventional gas fields;

(b) if so, what are the areas where exploration activities are under way;

(c) whether any new fields are under *consideration* for starting exploration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) to (b) At present, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is pursuing Research and Development activities for Coal Bed Methane (CBM) exploration in Prabhatpur area of Jharia subbasin in the State of Bihar and north Raniganj area in the State of West Bengal. Government has also awarded a block in Raniganj area in West Bengal to a private company for exploration and production of CBM. Six blocks have been identified in the Gondwana area of Eastern and Central India for offering through competitive bidding.