

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 7th December, 2004/16 Agrahayana, 1926 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Production of Methane gas

***81. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for exploration and production of Methane gas from coal seams, wastes of landfill and gas and oil systems in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of Methane produced during the last two years in the country, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government of India formulated a Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy in 1997 for exploration and production of CBM (which is primarily Methane gas) from coal/lignite bearing areas. The policy provides a framework, including terms and conditions for exploration and production of CBM in the country. Government have so far signed contracts with various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/Private companies for 16 CBM blocks situated in the States of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

With respect to exploration and production of natural gas, which primarily contains Methane, from conventional oil and gas systems, the Central Government and State Governments grant petroleum exploration licenses/Petroleum Mining Leases in accordance with the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules made thereunder. Government have also formulated a New Exploation Licensing Policy (NELP) for allotting acreages for exploration of oil and gas in the country. NELP provides a framework including terms and conditions for exploration, and in case of commercial discovery of oil and gas, development and production of oil and gas. The Government has signed 90 Production Sharing Contracts under the first four rounds of NELP.

Government have been implementing a National Programme on recovery of energy including Methane from urban and industrial wastes which provides financial support for setting up waste-to-energy projects. However, no landfill gas based projects have been established in the country so far as no techno-economically viable proposal has been received from the State Nodal Agencies/Municipal Corporations.

(c) The natural gas production from oil and gas systems in the country in the last two years, 2002-03 and 2003-04, was 31.394 Billion Cubic Metres and 31.961 Billion Cubic Metres respectively. However, there was no commercial production of Methane from coal bearing areas and landfill wastes.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, Methane is an environment-friendly gas, just like natural gas, and can be used for various purposes. The Minister has stated in his reply that the Government has so far signed contracts with various public sector undertakings and private companies for 16 CBM blocks situated in the States of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the estimated CBM reserves in these 16 blocks are and whether the commercial production of CBM has started in these blocks and, if not, by which time commercial production of CBM will start in these areas.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the CBM production, it is hoped, will begin by the year 2006-07. We hope that we will be able to obtain 20 million standard cubic metres per day eventually from all these blocks.

This is a relatively new technology for India. We have our rounds in cycles of two years. We are expecting to announce the third round next year, in 2005. But the work on the first two rounds, we hope, will start giving results to us from the year 2006.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, the Minister has said that the Government has so far signed contracts with various public sector undertakings and private companies. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the sector-wise details, and how many are Indian firms and how many are foreign firms in the private sector.

Sir, second part of my supplementary is this. What is the status of CBM in the southern parts of our country? I would like to know whether it is available in the lignite-bearing areas of Tamil Nadu and what the Government is doing to tap the CBM in the southern parts of the country.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the details with respect to these 16 blocks are briefly as follows:

On a nomination basis, Bokaro and North Karanpura in Jharkhand State have gone to a consortium of ONGC and IOC, Suhagpur East and Suhagpur West in Madhya Pradesh have gone to Reliance Industries Limited; Raniganj East in West Bengal has gone to Essar Oil Limited; and Raniganj North has gone to ONGC-CIL. Jharia in Jharkhand has also gone to ONGC-CIL. Raniganj South in West Bengal has gone to the Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited. I should clarify, because I did make a slight mistake here, that only the last three, that is, Raniganj North, Jharia and Raniganj South have been awarded on a nomination basis. In the second round of bidding—all were done on the basis of bidding—South Karanpur and North Karanpur in Jharkhand have gone to ONGC. In Madhya Pradesh, Satpura has gone to ONGC, in Maharashtra, Wardha has gone to ONGC, in Chhattisgarh, Sonhatt has gone to RIL. The RIL has also obtained Barmer-1 and Barmer-2 in Rajasthan. The ONGC and a consortium with Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation have obtained Barmer Sanchole. The total square kilometres that have been covered in these two rounds amount to 7,809. The estimated CBM reserves in billions of metric cubic metres is 820 and the potential which we are hoping to get in terms of production, given in millions of metres of standard cubic metres per day, is 23. The total estimated investment in all these 16 blocks is of the order of Rs. 150 crores.

Sir, with regard to Tamil Nadu and the State of Orissa, there is still a major policy decision to be taken by the respective State Governments. This is because unlike other States, these two States have not yet formally

responded to us with regard to their views on doing CBM production in their respective States. We are pursuing the matter with both the States. We have held discussions with them and I do feel, especially with Orissa, because we have been so kind to Orissa we have done things on Paradeep; we are doing things on Konark whether they couldn't be a little more responsive to us with regard to CBM.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the progress with regard to the projects that they have in my State, Jharkhand. Additionally, he has talked about Jharia. As we all know, there is the problem of fire in the coalmines in Jharia. There is sub-terranean fire. Jharia has been burning for a long time. How does he expect to coordinate the Coal-Bed Methane project with the ongoing fire in Jharia and what relief it would provide as far as fire is concerned?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: All our contracts have standard provisions to be implemented in four phases. The first phase, which lasts for three years, related to exploration, and the second phase, which could last for five to seven years, is for an assessment of commerciality of the product as also market identification. Now, the hon. Member will appreciate that with regard to all the blocks in Jharkhand, those at Bokaro, North Karanpur and Jharia, we are still in the first and to some extent in the second phase. The problem that he has mentioned in Jharia is a very real one. There are attempts being made to see whether it is possible to reconcile the difficulties with the potential. But, ultimately, it is for the contractor, which in the case of Jharia is ONGC-CIL, to determine whether, in fact, they could move forward into the development phase. I say this because all contractors, all companies have a walk out option at the end of Phase-1 and again at the end of Phase-2. If the contractor who has been awarded Jharia comes to the conclusion that owing to the problems identified by the hon. Member, it is not possible to proceed, they will let us know. As of now, they have not walked out of the project and we hope that their technicians and experts would be able to find a solution. Putting out fires, Sir, is not easy for any Minister.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned all the major coal producing States, except Andhra Pradesh. I would like to know whether it is the assessment of his Ministry that Andhra Pradesh does not have potential for Coal-Bed Methane. Is that the reason why he has excluded Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We have excluded nobody and we are willing to include everybody. But in this process, there is a necessity to make a technical assessment and give an element of prioritisation. The third CBM round is due to be launched next year. In view of the interest which the hon. Member has in Andhra Pradesh, necessarily we will have to give it a very special attention.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Part (a) of my question is this. Besides Methane gas, coal-based gas is being explored all over the world. When are you going to explore it in India? Part (b) of my question is this. Sufficient Methane is available in Raniganj belt and West Bengal blocks. To save the Raniganj belt and that area, when would the Methane be explored and commercially marketed? What is the expected time?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Fortunately Methane is available from several sources. It can be related to coal, but it is available from several sources. As much as, 85 per cent of natural gas, normally, includes Methane. We also have Coal Bed Methane which is generated during the coalification process, and it is trapped in coal seams, in what is called the adsorb stage, on the internal surfaces of the coal matrix. So, it is really a part and parcel of a mining operation. Then, we have coalmine Methane which is an important sub-set of Coalbed Methane, and we get coalmine Methane before, during and after mining, particularly from shallow coal formations. So, there is some coalmine Methane coming. The Coal Bed Methane is what we are exploring in specified blocks, the ones that I have mentioned to you. Of course, there is the other option of, what is called, landfill Methane which is largely a question of going to sub-urban areas where we could have a sufficiently large amount of land for urban waste to be dumped there, and then, out of these urban wastes, to try to produce Methane. We are trying to do that as well. So, all these processes, namely, looking for Methane in natural gas, looking for it in the current mining processes as coalmine Methane, looking for it in new processes such as Coal Bed Methane, and landfill Methane, all these activities are being simultaneously undertaken, and to the extent that we succeed, it will be a major contribution to our energy security. So, this is an area of high priority and high importance to the Government.

SHRI JIBON ROY: By what time are you going to commercially explore it at Raniganj?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I cannot specifically give the answer with respect to Raniganj because that is a process that is on-going with the contractor. For what we do hope is that, whether it is in Raniganj or

elsewhere in this country, the actual production of Coal Bed Methane will begin from the year 2006-07, and that, eventually, we will be able to reach a level of at least 20 million standard cubic metres per day as the output of Coal Bed Methane. But these are new technologies. Their potential is still to be fully unleashed in this country. We have gone into an agreement, only last week, with the Skochinsky Institute of Mining, Russia, both for the ONGC as well as GAIL, and we hope that we will be able to secure gas from these sources as well.

हवाईअड्डों पर क्लोज सर्किट टी.वी. कैमरे लगाया जाना

*82. श्रीमती सविता शारदा: क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार घरेलू तथा अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाईअड्डों पर दिन-प्रतिदिन होने वाली धोखाधड़ी और आपराधिक घटनाओं को रोकने के उद्देश्य से इन हवाईअड्डों के अंदरूनी हिस्सों में जल्द ही क्लोज सर्किट टी.वी. कैमरे लगाने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इस बारे में अंतिम निर्णय कब तक लिए जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) इस परियोजना पर कितनी लागत आने का अनुमान है?

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रफुल पटेल): एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रखा गया है।

विवरण

(क) से (ग) भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण ने देशभर में संवेदनशील और अति-संवेदनशील रूप में पहचाने गए 50 हवाईअड्डों में निगरानी के लिए चरणबद्ध तरीके से क्लोज सर्किट टीवी कैमरे लगाने का निर्णय लिया है। ऐसे कैमरे 19 हवाईअड्डों में पहले से ही लगाए गए हैं जिनके नाम हैं; दिल्ली, मुम्बई, चैन्नई, कोलकाता, त्रिवेन्द्रम, श्रीनगर, जम्मू, अमृतसर, बैंगलोर, अहमदाबाद, गोवा, कालीकट, इम्फाल, अगरतला, भोपाल, रांची, गुवाहाटी, हैदराबाद और बागडोगरा। 2004-05 के दौरान छह और हवाईअड्डों में ऐसे कैमरे लगाने की संभावना है, इनके नाम हैं:- लखनऊ, जयपुर, लेह, वड़ोदरा, कोयम्बतूर और पुणे। शेष हवाईअड्डों में ऐसे कैमरे जून, 2007 तक लगाए जाने की संभावना है।

(घ) 20 करोड़ रुपए।

Installation of CCTV Camera at Airports

†*82. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to install close circuit TV cameras in the internal areas of the domestic as well as International Airports in order

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.