

term commercial viability will be known after approval of DOC and subsequent submission of Field Development Plan (FDP) containing the estimated reserves, production profile and final development concept, investment, assumed gas price etc.

Discovery of shale gas in the country

746. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has struck shale gas reserves in its maiden well RNSG -1 near Durgapur, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is the first time when shale gas has been discovered in sedimentary rocks outside the USA and Canada and India is the first Asian country where gas has been discovered from shale; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N SINGH): (a) and (b) As a part of Research & Development (R&D) project, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has drilled a well in Coal Bed Methane (CBM) block in Raniganj area of West Bengal. Shale Gas flow has been reported. The well is under further testing. The quantity of reserves is yet to be established.

(c) and (d) As per information available in public domain, currently, shale gas is commercially being produced in United States of America (USA) and Canada. Other countries such as France, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Poland, China, Ukraine, Argentina and Australia are in the process of developing shale deposits in their countries.

Centrally sponsored rural development schemes in Gujarat

747. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Gujarat for implementation of Central Schemes for rural development during last three years, year-wise and scheme-wise;