

Indigenous production of gas

3526. SHRI S. THANGAVELU :

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN :

Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over 100 discoveries have been made under New-Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) if so, the reason for more and more gas being imported inspite of so many discoveries;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is more money in producing gas abroad and selling it in India rather than producing it in the country itself; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that companies produce gas in India rather than import it from outside?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) regime, 108 hydrocarbon discoveries (38 oil and 70 gas discoveries) have been made in 36 NELP blocks so far.

(b) Out of the above discoveries, commercial gas production is being currently realized from 5 discoveries in two NELP blocks. Other discoveries are under various stages of evaluation/appraisal/commerciality/development, in line with the timelines stipulated in the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs). Current gas production from NELP blocks is about 33 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD). The 2P (proved plus Probable) In-Place Gas Reserves established from NELP discoveries, as on 01.04.2011, is about 659 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM).

As on June 2011, against the total supply of 166 MMSCMD of natural gas in the country, the domestic availability of gas from different reserves was around 120 MMSCMD. This shortfall was met by import of gas.

(c) The gas produced from the NELP blocks is sold in line with the relevant PSC provisions. The profits from exploration and production abroad are subject to greater uncertainty, different tax laws and profit sharing systems.

(d) In order to accelerate the pace of exploration and production of oil and gas in the country, Government of India (GOI) has taken the following steps:

(i) Offering more unexplored areas for exploration through NELP bidding rounds. Total 248 blocks have been awarded under nine rounds of NELP

bidding rounds held so far. Till date, 108 oil/gas discoveries have been made in 36 NELP blocks, including the major gas discoveries in East Coast. The current oil and gas production from 6 NELP discoveries are about 13,000 bbl/day and 33 MMSCMD respectively. Government has plan to offer more areas for exploration in future NELP/(Open Acreages Licensing Policy (OALP) rounds.

- (ii) Exploring various sources of alternate energy such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM), Gas Hydrate, Shale Gas & Oil Shale. Total 30 CBM blocks have been awarded so far under four rounds of CBM bidding, in addition to 3 blocks awarded earlier on Nomination basis. Current CBM production in the country is about 0.24 MMSCMD and is expected to reach to about 4 MMSCMD by 2016-17. It is planned to offer more areas for CBM exploration and exploitation in future CBM rounds as well as launch the first round of Shale Gas bidding, subject to availability of necessary clearances from all concerned agencies.

Tapi Gas Pipeline Project

3527. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN :

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT :

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline Project is delayed due to prevailing instability in the countries through which it will pass;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the current status of TAPI project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) The Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GPFA) and the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) were signed at the TAPI Summit held at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 11th December, 2010. However, the Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) has not been signed. Further, Asian Development Bank has been appointed as the Transaction Advisor who, *inter-alia*, would begin the process of selection of Consortium Leader, once the GSPAs have been signed.