

Tapping of shale gas

275. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to tap shale gas;
- (b) whether the country has the requisite technology to tap this shale gas; and
- (c) how Government proposes to approach this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government has taken following steps to tap shale gas:

1. Formulation of a suitable policy to tap shale gas/oil is under way.
2. Projects initiated to identify prospective areas and resource assessment for shale gas/oil.
3. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP and NG) with Department of State (DoS), USA in fields of resource, assessment, regulatory consultations and investment promotion.

(b) and (c) The key technologies required for development of shale oil and gas are horizontal drilling and multi stage hydraulic fracturing. These technologies are being used in the country for conventional oil/gas and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) exploration and production as per field specific operational requirements.

Price of diesel supplied to fishermen

276. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any representation for reducing diesel prices supplied/purchases by fishermen communities or their societies;
- (b) if so, the details of such representation made and contention thereof; and