

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As on March, 2013, the total capacity of gas based power plants in the country is 18,713 MW and the quantum of indigenous natural gas available for this capacity is about 23.53 mmscmd.

(c) Due to shortage of domestic gas, all the gas based projects in the country are operating at very low Plant Load Factor (PLF) and projects commissioned during 2012-13 to the tune of 1,335 MW are stranded after commissioning. Besides, a capacity of 7,815 MW under advanced stage of commissioning is yet to be given allocation of gas.

Gas reserves in Mahanadi basin

†3847. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gas block situated in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin of the country has been declared for extraction work by a private company;

(b) if so, the total number of oil/gas blocks in this area which have been declared as 'no-go areas';

(c) whether it is also a fact that huge reserves of gas have been found in the Mahanadi basin;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the plans being made by Government to carry out extraction work in these areas which have been declared 'no-go areas' by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding rounds, exploration blocks are awarded through International Competitive Bidding process on equal terms and conditions to Private, Foreign and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). The deepwater block KG-DWN-98/3 (KG-D6) in Krishna Godavari basin was awarded to the Consortium of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), a Private Company and NIKO Resources Ltd., a Foreign Company. The commercial gas production from D1 & D3 fields in this block commenced *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2009.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) A total of 3 blocks in Krishna Godavari (KG) basin, namely, KG-OSN-2005/1, KG-OSN-2005/2 & KG-DWN-2009/1 (Part-A), have been declared as 'No-Go'. Exploration activities have been prohibited in these blocks as they are within the areas restricted by Ministry of Defence in the Eastern Offshore area South of Vishakhapatnam, where a strategic Naval Base is expected to be established.

(c) and (d) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, so far 13 gas discoveries have been made in the blocks awarded in Mahanadi- North East Coast (NEC) basin. Out of these, 8 gas discoveries have been made by Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and 5 gas discoveries by ONGC. Recoverable gas reserves to the tune of 29.6 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) have been established so far from 7 gas discoveries.

(e) Does not arise as in the above three 'No-Go' blocks in the KG basin, no exploration activities could be initiated and hence presence of hydrocarbon, if any, could not be established.

Rejection for allocation of gas for fertilizer sector

3848. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has made it clear that there will be no firm allocation of additional gas for the fertilizer sector; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to meet the additional gas demand in the sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The fertilizer sector will be allocated natural gas as and when available as per the prevailing Gas Utilization Policy, wherein the fertilizer sector has been given the highest priority for allocation. However, considering declining availability of natural gas in the country, the fertilizer sector has been advised to plan utilization of imported Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (R-LNG) also.

Rangarajan Committee report

3849. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: