

2. Exploring alternate energy sources such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM), Shale Gas/Shale Oil, etc.:

The current status in the country in the areas of alternate energy sources are as under:

- The first commercial production of CBM in the country commenced in Raniganj (South) block in West Bengal in the year 2007.
- Another 7 CBM blocks are currently under development.
- The current average CBM production in India is to the tune of 0.44 MMSCMD and will increase to about 4 to 5 MMSCMD by 2016-17.
- The resource estimation of shale gas/oil has been carried out for selected sedimentary basins and sub-basins in India by several agencies. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) of USA, in its recent study done in 2013 for 4 sedimentary basins in India (Cambay, Cauvery, Krishna Godavari onland and Damodar), has indicated the presence of an In-place volume of 1,278 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF) of shale gas and about 87 Billion Barrels of shale oil.
- The Government has issued "Policy Guidelines for Exploration and Exploitation of Shale Gas and Oil by National Oil Companies under Nomination regime" on 14th October, 2013. Currently, there is no commercial production of shale gas in the country.

3. Policy initiatives by the Government in E & P Sector

- (i) Policies allowing the Contractors to carry out exploration activities in the Mining Lease (ML) areas after the expiry of exploration period and submission of Integrated Development Plans for a cluster of discoveries etc. have been introduced to facilitate early monetization of discoveries and exploring additional hydrocarbon potential in the ML areas.
- (ii) The Uniform Licensing Policy (ULP) proposed by Rangarajan Committee is under consideration by the Government. If approved, this policy will allow the contractors to explore and exploit all types of hydrocarbons in the awarded blocks.
- (iii) In order to acquire geophysical data in poorly explored and unexplored areas, the Government is formulating a revised model for speculative survey.

4. Implementation of improved oil recovery schemes by E&P companies to improve recovery from mature fields.
5. Monetization of marginal fields.
6. Acquiring oil/gas assets abroad by oil PSUs.
7. Sourcing gas through trans-national Turkmenistan -Afghanistan -Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline.
8. Research and development of gas hydrate.

The above mentioned measures taken by the Government and exploration and production companies are likely to increase crude oil and natural production in the country.

#### **Oil and gas exploration in the country**

†2623. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the States of the country where exploration of the reserves of petrol, diesel and gas is going on under public as well as private sectors;
- (b) the details of the places where gas and oil reserves have been found during the last three years;
- (c) the names of the private sector companies to whom the gas and oil reserves, found by public sector companies, have been awarded in the last five years;
- (d) whether the Ministry does not have the facility for exploiting the explored gas and oil reserves; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for the inability to gather the means till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Exploration of hydrocarbons is being carried out by ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies in the sedimentary basins of the country. Exploratory efforts initiated by E&P companies are in the following States:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.