

**Exploitation of shale gas reserves**

3811. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has undertaken /is planning to undertake any extraction and exploitation of shale gas reserves in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any private corporations have been permitted to do so; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Government has on 14.10.2013 notified policy guidelines for exploration and exploitation of shale gas and oil by National Oil Companies (NOC) in their onland Petroleum Exploration License (PEL)/ Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) blocks awarded under the nomination regimes.

As per the policy, the NOCs will undertake a mandatory minimum work programme in a fixed time frame for shale gas and oil exploration and exploitation, so that there is optimum accretion and development of shale gas and oil resources.

(b) At present, ONGC has identified 50 nomination PEL / PML and OIL has identified 5 nomination PEL / PML for shale oil and gas exploration under this policy.

ONGC has drilled 1 well where coring has been completed and has also collected cores from 7 other wells.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

**Revision of diesel, kerosene and cooking gas prices**

3812. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had revised diesel prices and capped subsidized LPG cylinders to contain fiscal burden of subsidies in September, 2012 and allowed oil companies to raise diesel prices periodically;
- (b) if so, how many times prices of diesel, kerosene and cooking gas were raised, the rate-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether such measures helped reduce the growth in domestic oil consumption; and