

(c) Import dependency has increased due to increase in domestic consumption without commensurate increase in indigenous crude oil production.

(d) Government and Exploration and Production Companies have taken several steps to enhance domestic oil productions including:

- (1) Implementation of improved oil recovery and enhanced oil recovery schemes by ONGC from ageing fields.
- (2) Enhanced exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM)
- (3) Policy for Geo-Scientific Data Generation for Hydrocarbons
- (4) Setting up of a National Data Repository.
- (5) Enhanced exploitation of Shale Gas reserves etc.
- (6) Increased efforts for acquisition of oil and gas assets abroad.

Tapping of new oil and gas reserves

2262. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the locations of new reserves of oil and gas explored in the country during the last five years;
- (b) the quantum of oil and gas found in these reserves;
- (c) whether Government is tapping the new reserves of oil and gas; and
- (d) if not, the details of the companies through which different reserves are being tapped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) In last five years oil and gas reserves have been discovered in the states of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Eastern and Western Off Shore areas of the country.

(b) In last five years, ONGC has established 420.50 Million Metric Ton (MMT), OIL -9.680 MMT and Private/ Joint Venture(JV) companies - 34.75 MMT oil and gas reserves.

(c) and (d) ONGC, OIL as well as Private /JV Companies such as Focus Energy Limited, Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited, Reliance Industries Limited, ESSAR Oil Ltd., Jubilant Oil Gas Private Limited, Cairn Energy India Pvt. Limited, are engaged in Exploration and Production activities of oil and gas in the country.

Mechanism for determining gas price under the CBM

2263. SHRI SALIMANSARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the mechanism for determining the gas price under the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) contracts;
- (b) what are the provisions in CBM contracts on marketing and gas pricing;
- (c) whether there is any time-limit for Government to convey its approval for the basis of pricing of gas under contracts;
- (d) whether any contractors have sought approval for the basis of sale and pricing of CBM gas and if so, when; and
- (e) by when the approval is expected and the basis and the reasons for delay therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The gas pricing and sale of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) are governed by the provisions of Article 18 of the CBM contract.

Article 18.1 stipulate that any proposal by the contractor relating to production of CBM from a field/Development Area shall be made in the context of the Government's policy for the utilization of CBM/Natural gas. The contractor shall have the freedom to sell CBM at Arm's Length Prices in the domestic market pursuant to Article 18.

(c) Yes, Sir. In the CBM contract, Article 18.6 stipulates that the formula or the basis on which the CBM prices are determined, shall be approved by the Government prior to the sale of the CBM to consumers/buyers within 60 Business Days from the receipt of clarification/additional information, where asked for by the Government.

Such approval (s) from the Government shall be required to be obtained by the contractor on one time basis prior to execution of such sale/purchase agreement (s), if any, in this regard. For granting this approval, the Government shall take into account