

Progress in exploration of shale gas

1072. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any progress made in exploration of shale gas in India;
- (b) whether the ONGC-OVL has engaged in the overseas exploration of shale gas through joint ventures/global bids; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Government announced the "Policy Guidelines for Exploration and Exploitation of Shale Gas and Oil by National Oil Companies in the Petroleum Exploration License/Petroleum Mining Lease areas awarded under Nomination regime" on 14th October 2013. The permission to carry out exploration and exploitation of Shale Gas and oil activities in 55 PEUPML areas (ONGC-50; OIL 5) has been granted under first phase of assessment which is for 3 years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Identification of prospective areas for shale gas exploration

1073. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified certain new prospective areas for shale gas exploration in the country;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the time by when exploration operations in the identified blocks is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Government announced "Policy Guidelines for Exploration and Exploitation of Shale Gas and Oil by National Oil Companies in the Petroleum Exploration License (PEL)/Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) areas awarded under Nomination regime" on 14th October 2013. The permission to carry out exploration and exploitation of Shale gas and oil activities in 55 PEL/PML areas (ONGC-50; OIL 5) has been granted under the first phase of assessment which is for 3 years.

(b) The State-wise distribution of the blocks is as follows:

- Gujarat – 28 blocks
- Tamil Nadu – 9 blocks
- Assam – 7 blocks
- Rajasthan – 1 block
- Andhra Pradesh – 10 blocks

(c) ONGC and OIL have commenced the activities for exploration of shale gas and oil in these blocks.

Demand regarding dealers' commission

†1074. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Petrol Pump Dealers Association of India has made any demand regarding dealers' commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has constituted any committee to sanction the proposals, if so, the opinion of the committee and by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The prices of Petrol and Diesel have been deregulated by the Government with effect from 26.06.2010 and 19.10.2014 respectively. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are taking decision with respect to the dealer's commission on petrol and diesel.

Operation of refinery in Barmer district, Rajasthan

†1075. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work on the refinery approved to be set up in Barmer district of Rajasthan would be started;

(b) the funds released for the refinery in this financial year; and

(c) the dates when the remaining amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Government has accorded

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.