

Exploration of shale gas

1089. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to explore shale gas in India, if so, the details thereof with work done, funds invested and the results thereof;

(b) what are Government's plan to have shale gas imported from other country, whether any negotiations have been held in this regard, if so, with whom and the result thereof; and

(c) how important is shale gas for India's energy needs in Government view and the future plans to produce it in India at a mass scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India announced the "Policy Guidelines for Exploration and Exploitation of Shale Gas and Oil by National Oil Companies under Nomination regime" *vide* order dated 14th October 2013. Permission to carry out exploration and exploitation of shale gas and oil activities in 55 Petroleum Exploration Licence /Petroleum Mining Lease areas (ONGC-50; OIL 5) has been granted under the first phase of Assessment which is for 3 years.

ONGC has drilled one well in Cambay Basin, Gujarat where coring has been completed. Further, ONGC has spudded one more well for shale gas and oil exploration in Gandhar area of Cambay Basin. In addition, ONGC has collected cores from another 8 wells. ONGC has invested ₹ 78.91 crore for exploration of Shale gas and Oil as on 31.12.2014. assessment of the potential of shale gas and oil by OIL India limited is at the nascent stage.

(b) To meet its requirements, India imports Natural gas from various countries. There is no distinction made regarding the source of the natural gas imported—conventional or unconventional.

(c) For meeting the country's growing energy demands, exploration and exploitation of shale oil and gas is essential. Under the notified policy, the National Oil Companies shall be permitted to apply for Petroleum Exploration Licence /Petroleum Mining Lease in at least 135 blocks awarded under the nomination regimes for assessment and exploitation of shale oil and gas under Phase II and III after completion of Phase I.