

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Tamil Nadu	226.879	228.49	250.312	211.00	251.208	160.533
13.	Tripura	-	6.00	5.77	9.766	6.03	26.10932
14.	Uttar Pradesh	80.15	49.30	14.76	-	5.16	15.33
15.	Uttarakhand	206.82	141.99	161.46	115.068	103.908	82.61
16.	West Bengal	410.206	224.50	91.865	97.626	103.814	56.83
17.	Haryana	100.00	-	-	30.97	-	10.00
18.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-	6.77544
TOTAL		2197.393	2093.94	1796.53	1843.531	1767.4344	1020.62076

#### **Pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification**

\*160. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the Russian Federation had entered into an agreement in 2004-05 for undertaking a pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG);

(b) the progress registered during the last decade on the project that was to be started in or near Mehsana in Gujarat;

(c) the details of Government's evaluation of significance and potential of UCG for domestic energy security; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the pilot project with a view to commercialize UCG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As per the information received from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)/Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), an agreement of collaboration was entered into by ONGC with Skochinsky Institute of Mining (SIM), Russia on 25th November, 2004 for development of Underground Coal Gasification (UCG). The project was envisaged to be completed in phases and involved site selection for construction of UCG. Eleven sites were evaluated for suitability of UCG and out of these, one site, namely Vastan Lignite block in Gujarat was found suitable. Subsequent stages of detailed characterisation and pilot layout, detailed engineering design were also taken up. Additional geological and hydro-geological data was generated for the

design and execution of UCG pilot project. 21 boreholes were drilled and high resolution shallow seismic survey was carried out for detailed characterisation of the field. The data was analysed and location and layout of UCG pilot was finalised. The detailed engineering design for construction of UCG pilot module was prepared by Ukrainian Institute M/s. Dongiproshkht in consultation with SIM. Environment clearance was obtained and Vastan block was allocated by MoC to Gujarat Industrial Power Corporation Ltd (GIPCL) for development of UCG pilot alongwith ONGC.

(b) ONGC took initiative to develop a UCG pilot at Mehsana in North Gujarat to experiment in the area where coal resources were discovered during the course of oil drilling at a depth of 700-1100 metres. A national committee was formed with the representatives from MoPNG, Department of Coal, CSIR, CMPDIL, State Government of Gujarat and ONGC for this purpose. In the process, two information wells were drilled. All geological, geo-physical, geo-hydrological data and core samples of coal were collected; detailed lab studies of coal were carried out; 3D seismic survey data were processed and analysed and a geological model was prepared. Basic designing of the pilot project, completion of drilling and strategy for process wells and designing of surface facilities was also done. However, due to non-finalisation of the contract with M/s PDIL, it got delayed and the cost estimates were revised. It was proposed to get this R&D project funded by Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) by availing grant-in-aid. However, when the proposal was processed for approval of OIDB, the same could not be supported due to escalation of costs and ultimately the project was discontinued in 1992.

(c) and (d) UCG is a clean coal technology and provides for extracting energy from the coal seams which cannot be mined through known mining technology. Successful testing and implementation of this technology in Indian conditions would help in providing energy security. Further, UCG is one of the notified end uses for allotment of coal blocks through bidding under CMN Act, 1973. Five lignite blocks and two coal blocks have also been identified earlier for UCG purposes. Besides, CIL has also identified two coal blocks for UCG in their command area.

#### **Funds allocated to Bihar under PMGSY**

†\*161. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to Bihar under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the current year, district-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.