

**Agreement with US to enhance technical co-operation**

2748. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently signed an agreement with the US to enhance technical and institutional co-operation specific to hydrocarbons and energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether co-operation would also include in the areas of technology for production from marginal fields, shale structures, developing gas pipeline network, improving refinery efficiency; and

(d) if so, what is the progress made so far and how far our oil companies, ONGC and refineries would be benefited, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) On 6 June 2016, India and the USA renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Cooperation in Gas Hydrates. Under the MoU, both Governments will continue to cooperate in field of gas hydrates, including increasing understanding of their geologic occurrence and working on developing methane from gas hydrates both in India and the United States, through exchange of information and scientific personnel and joint studies. India has also signed an MoU with the USA on exploration and exploitation of Shale Gas. The MoU provides for Shale Gas resource assessment, technical studies of production capability, economics and investment potential of Shale Gas resource in India.

(c) and (d) The MoU for Cooperation in Gas Hydrates does not include cooperation in the areas of technology for production from marginal fields, shale structures, developing gas pipeline network, improving refinery efficiency. However, India and the USA discuss cooperation in the field of extraction of oil from marginal fields, technology for Shale Gas extraction, gas hydrates, pipeline security and refinery modernization under the Working Group on Petroleum and Natural Gas in the India and the USA Energy Dialogue.

**Report on Krishna-Godavari Basin**

†2749. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry committee constituted with regard to the Krishna-Gadavari basin has handed over its report to Government;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if not, the details of the reasons for not handing over the report till date;
- (c) if so, the names of the companies that have illegally extracted gas from Government gas blocks;
- (d) whether Government would recover the cost of the gas thus extracted; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government constituted a single member committee comprising of Shri Ajit Prakash Shah former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on 15.12.2015 to look into the dispute between Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and ONGC regarding ONGC blocks (KG-DWN-98/2 and Godavari PML) and RIL block (KG-DWN-98/3) in Krishna Godavari basin. The committee was to submit its report in three months time. However, considering the volume of work involved and complexity of the issue, the Committee has sought extension till 31st August, 2016 for submission of the report which has been agreed by the Government.

(c) to (e) Terms of References (TORs) to the committee includes looking into the issue of gas migration and give its recommendations in this regard. The committee has conducted hearings and has taken written submission from all stakeholders. The next course of action will be decided by the Government after getting the recommendations of the Committee.

#### **Expenditure on setting up of mega oil refinery on west coast**

2750. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's biggest oil refinery that state-run IOCL, BPCL, HPCL and EIL plans to set up on the West Coast will cost 30 million US dollars or ₹2 lac crores, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the 60 million tonnes a year refinery and a mega petrochemical complex will be set up in two phases, if so, the details thereof and progress made; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that being on the West Coast will provide the unit a natural advantage of easily sourcing crude oil from the Middle-East, Africa and South America, if so, the details thereof?