

has given 'in principle' approval for establishment of two additional SPR facilities with total storage capacity of 6.5 MMT at two locations viz. Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka.

ONGC's profit sharing

†1888. SHRI NARAYAN RANE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered passing on the share of State Government of Maharashtra out of the profit earned by ONGC through production of natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) ONGC is producing crude oil and natural gas from its Offshore fields in the Western coast. As per the statutory provisions of Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act 1948 and Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 1959, as amended from time to time, royalty on production of crude oil and gas is payable to the Central Government for production from offshore fields. State Government of Maharashtra receives/collects Value Added Tax, Octroi and State Goods and Services Tax on the production landing in Maharashtra.

Hydrocarbon wells of ONGC in Tamil Nadu

1889. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many hydrocarbon wells have been proposed by ONGC in the Delta region of Tamil Nadu, with the total spread of acres of land;

(b) whether environmental clearance has been given to these wells, if so, how many;

(c) whether the digging area falls under farm land also;

(d) if so, whether the farmers have made protest against such move in view of affecting of fertility of the land and contamination;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(f) whether the proposal of hydrocarbon wells would be reconsidered and shelved?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) ONGC has proposed thirty seven exploratory locations for drilling in Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur and Thanjavur districts of Cauvery Delta region of Tamil Nadu covering total land of 0.83 Square Kilometer.

(b) ONGC has received environmental clearance for fifteen locations.

(c) to (f) Fifteen exploratory locations fall under farm land. Some local people/ organizations have represented/expressed apprehension regarding possible environmental impact. Such issues are dealt with in consultation with authorities concerned and as per applicable laws, rules/regulations, guidelines etc.

Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants

1890. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Letter of Intent (LoI) issued by Ministry to potential entrepreneurs for setting up Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants in the country;

(b) whether financing from banks for setting up CBG plants was also assured to entrepreneurs under this initiative;

(c) whether Ministry has taken up issue of bank financing of CBG plants with Ministry of Finance as in absence of proper rating of this project, banks are reluctant to give finance; and

(d) whether Ministry would expedite the process of CBG so that plants are set up and vision of promoting biofuel is realised in true spirit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Under Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Gail (India) Limited (GAIL) and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) have issued 443 numbers Letters of Intent as on 29.11.2019 for setting up Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants in the country.