

Southern part of Raniganj basin in 1995, when the first R&D well DU-1 (DUAA) was drilled by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) exclusively for evaluating the CBM potential of the area. The second CBM well DU-2 (DUAB) was also drilled by ONGC in the same basin. Subsequently, ONGC drilled seven slim holes for CBM in the Northern part of Raniganj coalfield. Additionally, Government has signed contracts for two CBM blocks in the State of West Bengal to public and private companies for exploration and production of CBM. The details of these blocks are as follows:—

- (i) Raniganj South Block comprising 210 square kilometer area contract for which has been signed in 2001 with M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. Drilling of two coreholes and one pilot well has been completed. The first phase of exploration as per contract is of three years duration.
- (ii) Raniganj East Block comprising 500 square kilometer area contract for which has been signed recently with M/s Essar Oil. The first phase of exploration as per contract is of three years duration.

(b) Commercial production of CBM from the blocks may be available after 5-6 years depending upon the success to test wells and establishment of commercial quantities of CBM.

Octane testing centres in Gujarat

719. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has requested financial assistance for establishment of stationery as well as mobile Octane Testing Centres in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the request has been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Gujarat has requested for financial assistance for establishment of an independent laboratory to be run by Consumer Education and Research Centre, Ahmedabad to check the adulteration of petroleum products in the State. The total cost of setting up of the laboratory

is about Rs. 12.00 crores. The State Government has requested to provide 50% contribution, i.e., Rs. 6.00 crores for the said purpose.

(c) As sufficient facilities for testing quality of petroleum products are available in Gujarat, the Government is of the view that a separate set up is not required.

Mandatory sale of ethanol-doped petrol

720. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that the sale of 5 per cent ethanol-doped petrol i.e. Gasohol would be mandatory in certain States and Union Territories from 1st January, 2003;

(b) if so, the names of such States and UTs;

(c) the estimated reduction in oil import dependency of the country as a result of above decision; and

(d) the details of the incentives proposed to be given to the sugarcane growing farmers who provide necessary ingredient for Gasohol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territories are Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chandigarh and Pondicherry.

(c) At the initial stage it would facilitate foreign exchange earnings through export of the quantity of hydrocarbons made surplus.

(d) The amendment in Sugar Development Fund Act 1982 facilitating financial assistance for manufacturing anhydrous ethanol and co-generation of power from bagasse, in addition to proposed reduction in excise duty on sale of 5% ethanol doped petrol would indirectly benefit the farmers.

Petrol Pumps in Gujarat

721. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies running their own petrol pumps in Gujarat, location-wise; and

(b) the names of persons to whom these coco pumps and jubilee pumps have been rented out during the last three years?