

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No. 205

TO BE ANSWERED ON 3rd August, 2023

Demand of Natural Gas

*205. SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's natural gas demand is likely to grow considerably over the next few years putting substantial pressure of gas import from other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government/Indian Oil Companies are planning to build a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in Iraq to acquire cheap gas from abroad and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has signed any agreement with Iraq in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has sent/proposes to send a dedicated team of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Engineers India Ltd. to Iraq to study the feasibility of establishing liquefaction plant in Iraq and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government is planning to sign such accord or establish LNG terminal in other countries also to procure cheap energy and if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री
(श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

**MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)**

- (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 205 ASKED BY SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE AND SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE, MPs TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD AUGUST, 2023.

(a) & (b) The Government has set a target to raise the share of natural gas in energy mix to 15% by 2030 from about 6% now. Various steps are being taken by the Government in this direction including expansion of National Gas Grid Pipeline, expansion of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network, setting up of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminals, Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiatives, etc.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has authorised approximately 33,592 km natural gas pipeline network across the country out of which 23,173 km natural gas pipeline are operational and a total of 12,206 km length of pipelines are under various stages of construction.

PNGRB has authorized 300 Geographical Areas (GAs) covering about 98% of the population and 88% of total geographical area of the country spread over around 630 districts in 28 states/UTs for development of CGD network across the country. As on 31.05.2023, 5,767 CNG stations have been commissioned and 1.12 crore Piped Natural Gas (domestic) connections provided by the CGD entities.

Gross domestic production of natural gas has increased by approximately 20% from 28,672 MMSCM in 2020-21 to 34,450 MMSCM in 2022-23. India imported 26,304 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters (MMSCM) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) during 2022-23. At present, the country has 7 operational LNG re-gasification terminals with combined capacity of approx. 47.7 Million Metric Tons Per Annum (MMTPA).

For increasing domestic gas production, Government of India has notified Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) on 30th March 2016 for the award of exploration acreages shifting from Production Sharing mechanism to Revenue Sharing mechanism. Government further notified the policy reforms on 28th February 2019, where many of the processes and approvals were relaxed to promote “Ease of Doing Business”, Revenue Share from Category II & III type of basins were removed, except for windfall gains, 7 years Royalty Holiday for Deep & Ultra-deep blocks, concessional Royalty Rates for Deepwater and for ultra-deep water blocks, and fiscal incentives have been provided for early monetization of fields along with Marketing and Pricing freedom for natural gas.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has also launched “Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)” initiative on 1st October 2018, with the aim of establishing an ecosystem for production of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG), which can replace natural gas, from various waste/ biomass sources and for promoting its use along with Natural Gas so far, 48 CBG plants have been commissioned.

(c) to (f) There is readiness of Indian companies to explore investment opportunities in Iraq/other countries, in view of the increasing demand of oil and gas in the domestic market.
