

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5051
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005
COAL GASIFICATION
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has entered into Collaboration with "Shell" for Coal gasification process;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any feasibility studies has been under-taken by GAIL for coal gasification; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) had an Umbrella Agreement with Shell, relating to various types of gas sector co-operation, non-conventional gas production and end use-sectors.

Both parties have now agreed to revive the Umbrella agreement.

GAIL is keen to utilize the Shell Coal Gasification Process (SCGP) for setting up a Coal Gasification Project in eastern India.

Shell have indicated that SCGP is suitable for Indian coal which inherently has a high ash content.

Shell have carried out a study for GAIL based on coal sample analysis from Eastern Coal Fields Ltd., Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. and Central Coal Fields.

(c) & (d): A detailed feasibility report (DFR) is in the process of being prepared by M/s Uhde, Mumbai in collaboration with their parent company M/s Uhde, Germany, based on coal data from Eastern Coal Fields Ltd., Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. and Central Coal Fields. The DFR is expected to be ready by the end of August 2005.