

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2289
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005
RUSSIAN COOPERATION IN UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has signed any agreement with Skochinsky Institute of Mining, Russia for Underground Coal Gasification Project in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a team from Russia arrived in India in October, 2005 to help Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in pursuing the Underground Coal Gasification Project.
- (d) if so, whether any location to take up the exploration has been identified;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action plan chalked out to implement the project?

Answer

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

(a) & (b):- Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. signed an Agreement of Collaboration (AOC) on the 25th November, 2004 with the Skochinsky Institute of Mining -National Mining Research Institute (SIM-NMRC) Moscow, Russia for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG).

The AOC envisages cooperation in the following areas:-

- # Sharing technical know-how and technologies related to UCG.
- # Development and application of expertise in UCG technologies.
- # Establishing technical feasibility through field demonstrations for different geological, hydrological and environmental conditions.
- # Establishing the commercial feasibility of the process through a pilot project.

(c) Yes, Sir. Dr. A. A. Kuznestov visited India from October 27-30, 2005.

(d) & (e):- The basic data in the format prescribed by SIM - NMRC from the coal fields of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC), Gujarat Industrial Power Corporation Ltd. (GIPCL), Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLCL) and Singhereni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) have been sent to SIM ,Russia for site selection.

(f) The action plan chalked out to implement the project is as follows:-

- (i) site selection - 7 months
- (ii) geological and hydrogeological - 6 months
- (iii) permission for use of land - 6 months
- (iv) project design and techno economic analysis - 17 months
- (v) construction - 24 months

Thus the project is envisaged to be implemented in 60 months.