

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2408  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005  
UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION PROJECTS  
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Neyveli Lignite Corporation for undertaking underground coal gasification in lignite;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the sites short-listed for underground coal gasification projects; and
- (d) the steps taken to implement the projects?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b):- Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) on 24.09.2005 for taking up a Joint Project on Underground Coal/Lignite Gasification. As per the MOU, ONGC and NLC will be jointly working in the States where NLC is operating and where lignite deposits are available for this purpose. Both the companies will be participating in R&D in Underground Coal Gasification/Underground Lignite Gasification technology, including experiments and pilots at suitable sites in lignite areas. In case of successful pilot experiments, ONGC and NLC will cooperate in the separation of flue gases generated from UCG/ULG for possible production and marketing of synthetic gas and/or crude and/or synthetic fuels.

(c) The sites short listed for Underground Coal Gasification Projects are Mannargudi, Kullanchavadi, Veranam in Tamilnadu and Sindhari in Rajasthan.

(d) Data collected from the respective sites has been sent to the consultant Skochinsky Institute of Mining (SIM-Russia) for study and analysis.