

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:476

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2007

EXPLORATION OF COAL BED METHANE

Mistry Shri Madhusudan Devram;Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.;Varma Shri Ratilal Kalidas

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has taken any steps to start the drilling activities in the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Block awarded in 2004 to Gujarat ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has suggested the Central Government to induct a third partner for this Block in order to get the exploration and production started at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Central Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Block namely BS(3)-CBM-2003/II in the State of Gujarat has been awarded to consortium of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (ONGC & GSPC). ONGC has hired a high capacity rig and started drilling of CBM wells since August 2006. So far, ONGC has drilled three core holes and one exploratory well.

(c)&(d) As per terms and conditions of the Production Sharing Contract, there is no provision to force operator to induct a third party.