**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

**RAJYA SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.**1208**

TO BE ANSWERED ON **13th February, 2019**

**Exploration of shale reserve**

1208. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering changes in the definition of petroleum to let oil and gas exploration firms explore shale reserves in the country;

(b) if so, what methods of the extraction are going to be allowed and which companies, whether public or private would be eligible to undertake exploration; and

(c) what safeguards would be taken to ensure that fresh water does not get wasted in the process of hydraulic fracturing?

***ANSWER***

 MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (c): Government has amended the definition of 'Petroleum' under clause (k) of Rule 3 of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959 and notified the same on 24.07.2018 to enable issuance of License/Lease for exploration / extraction / exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbons. Generally, methods of extraction of shale gas or oil are horizontal drilling and multi-stage hydraulic fracturing. Any Exploration & Production (E&P) company, public or private, can undertake exploration of shale gas/oil as per the contractual terms and conditions. All contractors/operators are under legal obligation to obtain prior written clearance/approval of the concerned environmental authority before carrying out activities for exploration / exploitation of oil and gas. They are required to comply with various statutes such as the Environmental (Protection) Act 1986/ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980/ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 etc. while undertaking activities for exploration / exploitation of oil and gas.

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