**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*44**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 6.02.2019**

India's capacity to generate power from gas

\*44. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether 31 gas based high capacity power plants are stranded due to non-availability of domestic gas and high cost of gas imports;

(b) whether average domestic gas supplied to power projects during 2017-18 was only 25.71 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre per Day (MMSCMD) against a total allocation of 87.12 MMSCMD; and

(c) if so, measures taken by Government to de-stress the natural gas sector for combating such issues?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*44 ASKED BY SHRI SANJAY SINGH, MP TO BE ANSWERED ON FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

(a) to (c) Domestic gas is being allocated to all sectors including power sector as per Gas Utilization Policy of the Government. Supply of domestic gas against allocation is subject to availability. Liquefied Natural Gas is imported under open general license by the power plants on the terms and conditions mutually agreed upon between the buyers and sellers. Ministry of Power has informed that 31Gas based power generation capacity of 14,305 MW was stranded due to non-availability of domestic gas.

The domestic gas production has gone down in the country; however, supply of domestic Gas to Power sector has increased in last 2 years. At present, Power Sector is the largest consumer of domestic gas in the country and average domestic gas consumption during the year 2017-18 was 25.71 MMSCMD. The major policy level initiatives taken by Government to enhance domestic gas production include:

(i) Introduction of New Domestic Natural Gas Pricing Guidelines, 2014 to market-link price of domestic natural gas to the international prices.

(ii) Introduction of Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)/Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).

(iii) Policy Framework to promote and incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods (EOR) for oil and gas.

(iv) Fiscal incentives and an enabling ecosystem to improve productivity of existing fields and enhance overall production of domestic hydrocarbons.

(v) Introduction of Discovered Small Field Policy (DSF) Policy for early monetization of un-monetized discoveries.

(vi) Creation of state of -the- art National Data Repository (NDR) to provide high quality and reliable geoscientific data.

(vii) National Seismic Programme of un-appraised areas.

(viii) Marketing freedom including pricing freedom for the gas produced from discoveries in High Pressure-High Temperature (HPHT), Deepwater & Ultra Deepwater subject to a ceiling price on the basis of landed alternative fuel.

(ix) Policy for early monetization of Coal Bed Methane.