

SANKAR PRASAD DATTA

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(Lok Sabha)



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Dear Shri Dharmendra Pradhan ji,

Today I like to draw your attention in a serious problem of the state of Tripura. Due to lack of supply of sufficient natural gas the power plants of the state are facing a serious deficiency. When the whole country is in search of sufficient petroleum products inside the country in such a time due to proper initiative from the ONGC the good reserve of the gas beneath the soil of Tripura could not be utilized properly.

In this circumstance I am furnishing the facts of the gas exploration in Tripura.

- ONGC Tripura Asset established commercial gas discovery in 1975 at Baramura area, 40 Km far from ONGC office. 1986 commercial gas production for Thermal power generation started in Tripura at Baramura.
- In 2008 ONGC Tripura Asset prepared a dream feasibility report (FR) for sustainable gas production of 6 MMSCMD (60 lakh Standard Cubic Meter per day) up to 15 years and would start from 2012-13.
- In FR 2008 to 2019 total additional 172 wells to be drilled for sustainable gas supply of 6 MMSCMD up to 2027. As on 2015-16 short fall of 50 wells exists. Rig count would be 8 but now only 3 ONGC own drilling rigs are in operation. ONGC already purchased 5 nos modern rig but not a single rig has been earmarked for Tripura. At least 4 Nos new ONGC own Rigs are urgent need in Tripura. Please advise ONGC authority to purchase 3 mobile heavy duty drilling rig and 1 no heavy duty static Rig and deploy in Tripura. Hired rig performances in ONGC Tripura were not satisfactory as per past experiences. During 2011 to 2014 there were 2 hired rig in ONGC Tripura and they drilled yearly only 2 wells/per rig in average though rig were modern, where as ONGC's own 35 years old rigs drilled average 4 wells per rig per year. Since 2011 to 2019 total 18 wells per year has been planned for drilling but ultimately only 10 – 12 wells per year has been drilled so far.
- ONGC now revised its FR from 6MMSCMD to 5.1 MMSCMD which shows your ministry reducing the exploration and production work in Tripura which is an upcoming Industrial state.
- Gas supply in OTPC Palatana power project 1st Turbine started in 2012 but uninterrupted supply started during June 2013. 2nd Turbine inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with you during Dec' 2014 but full-fledged uninterrupted supply not yet been commenced. Gas supply in Monerchawk 104
- MW power plant started in March 2015 as an experimental basis but till now continuous required gas not been able to supply by ONGC. Due to gas unavailability TSESCL could not generate around 30 MW thermal powers in Baramura and Rukhia area.
- Since commissioning of ONGC in Tripura state (1970) around 208 wells so far drilled up to April 2016 though target was 260 wells. There are 90 gas bearing wells and supply

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capacity is around 4.95 MMSCMD from 7 producing fields though highest supplied quantity in a single day (20/03/2015) was 4.49 MMSCMD due to non availability of natural gas.

- As on date due to non availability of committed Natural gas of your Ministry around 320 MW thermal powers could not generate in Tripura state. Installed power generation capacity is 1019 MW but at present power generation is around 700 MW.
- ONGC Tripura Asset incurring around Rs. 500 cores profit in last FY and becomes the No 1 profit making On Shore Asset.
- There are 21 exploratory fields in Tripura out of which 12 Nos drilled so far and 7 are now producing and 4 Nos to be in production. 9 exploratory fields are yet to explore vigorously. Moreover in Gojalia and Khubal fields more thrust to be given for more establishment. Based on Khubal field exploration data Govt. of Tripura and ONGC entered an agreement for fertilizer plant but during last 3 years ONGC's performance in Khubal area and its adjacent fields are poor. Please advise more vigorous operations to be carried out.
- 3 years tenure posting of executives in Tripura adversely effected Tripura ONGC operations. It may be 5 years tenure posting for the development of NE states under your administrative control.
- Now I am placing specific demands for you kind perusal: Deployment of more ONGC own Drilling and Production Rig in Tripura Asset. More man power to be inducted in Tripura under ONGC to maintain the shortcomings though during last 2 years around 250 regular employees have been inducted. Thrust should be initiated for exploration and production in Gojalia and Khubal structure and put on production. Un-explored virgin fields to be explored immediately. Many industrialist are coming to set gas based Industry in Tripura after broad gauge rail track.

Hope, your sagacity would look in to the matter with all seriousness and help the people of the state of Tripura according to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's "Act East Policy".

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(SANKAR PRASAD DATTA)

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
Hon'ble Minister of Natural Gas
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