

in October 2018. Under OALP Bid round-II, bid for 14 blocks having an acreage area of 29,233 sq. km. is launched on 7th January, 2019. Government has also taken a number of initiatives to encourage the use of alternative fuels and incentivize production of ethanol and Bio-Diesel. Government has notified the National Bio Fuel Policy 2018 to boost availability of biofuels and promotion of advanced biofuels in country.

(c) The major steps taken for enhancing the production of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and Shale Gas in the country include:—

- (i) Formulation of CBM Policy in 1997 for exploration and exploitation of CBM being natural gas. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Ministry of Coal in this regard.
- (ii) Completion of four rounds of CBM bidding, resulting in allocation of 33 CBM blocks (including 2 nominations and 1 through FIPB route) spreading over 16,613 square kilometers.
- (iii) Granting permission to Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries to explore and exploit CBM from its areas under coal mining lease and dispensing the requirement of having additional License from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- (iv) Introduction of Unified Licensing Policy under Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) wherein all types of hydrocarbon resources, both conventional and unconventional can be explored and exploited.
- (v) Notification of policy framework for early monetization of CBM gas, which *inter alia* provides for marketing and pricing freedom.
- (vi) Notification of policy framework for exploration and exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbons including CBM and Shale gas/oil in existing acreages under Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), Coal Bed Methane (CBM) contracts and nomination fields.

#### **Functioning of Petroleum University in Andhra Pradesh**

1216. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Petroleum University is functioning on temporary campus at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh since January, 2016;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated/granted towards university project cost;
- (d) the details of funds released during the last three years;
- (e) whether the funds released by Government are sufficient for early completion of this project; and
- (f) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Petroleum University which has been renamed as Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE), Visakhapatnam is functioning from the academic year 2016-17 onwards at the II floor of the Principal's office, Andhra University College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam, as the lands were involved in litigation and only in January, 2019 the land documents have been handed over to IIPE.

(c) and (d) So far, an amount of K 57.00 crore has been released to IIPE from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS). Year- wise allocation is as under:-

Year	Funds released (₹ in crore)
2016-17	32.00
2017-18	01.00
2018-19	24.00

Apart from this, an amount of ₹199.40 crore has been provided by the promoting Oil Companies as Endowment Fund.

(e) and (f) The budget release is linked to execution of project, which is related to having possession of land and obtaining clearances/approvals.

#### **Petrochemical complex in Andhra Pradesh**

1217. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government has received any request from the Andhra Pradesh Government for implementation of Petrochemical complex in the State of Andhra Pradesh with any Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from the State; and