
ONGC to tie up with Schlumberger to explore shale gas

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PTI reported that ONGC would tie up with multi national oilfield services provider Schlumberger for exploring shale gas potential in the country.

Schlumberger has expertise in three dimensional seismic survey to ascertain availability of hydrocarbons and provides services for developing and managing integrated project exploration of shale gas and other hydrocarbons.

Mr Surya P Sethi principal advisor (Energy) of Planning Commission on the sidelines of a conference at Petrotech-2009 said that "ONGC is tying up with Schlumberger for assessing the availability of shale gas in the country. There is no data available about shale gas reserves in the country."

Mr Sethi said that "India Government has been encouraging oil companies to explore hydrocarbons by providing enough tax benefits. There are provisions in the Income Tax Act 1961. But not a single proposal for exploration of shale gas came to me during the past 7 years of my term in the Planning Commission."

He said that "The oil companies have to decide whether they want to explore shale gas or not. There is a high potential. Government should also encourage exploration of shale gas in the country. First, we need to know the quantum of shale gas reserves in the country."

Shale is fine grained sedimentary rock from which hydrocarbons can be extracted and currently, there is no data available on shale gas reserves in the country. Horizontal drilling is often used with shale gas wells. Shale gas can be produced for years from shales with natural fractures. Shale is one of the number of unconventional source of natural gas like coal bed methane, tight sandstones and methane hydrates.

(Sourced from Press Trust of India)

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