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Notice Board

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Visakhapatnam: A mega petrochemicals complex will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, making it the energy and petrochemicals hub on India's east coast, Union minister of state for petroleum and natural gas Dharmendra Pradhan said here on Thursday.

Addressing media persons after conducting a review of various oil and gas sector projects in Vizag, Pradhan, who visited the facilities of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (IS-PRL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in the KG Basin said, "A detailed energy road map of future AP will be drawn up. We are already working on an ambitious road map and planning beyond the PCPIR (Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region) for AP."

Stating that AP has immense potential in the hydrocarbon sector, he said, "ONGC will start gas production from the KG Basin from 2018 and oil production from 2019." Explaining that as compared to the west coast, deep sea exploration poses serious challenges on the east coast, he

said, "Monetising the potential is a priority and ONGC is undertaking the project on a fast-track basis. I am fully satisfied with progress."

While refusing to comment on the oil and gas reserves in AP, he said, "It will be a substantial addition to the (petroleum) sector." However, CM Naidu said initial estimates indicate that around 20-25 million cubic metres of oil and gas reserves are located in offshore fields.

Pradhan also remained non-committal over CM Naidu's request for royalty on oil and gas explored in AP, Pradhan said, "The Government of India as on today will follow the law of the land." He said that under the present situation there is no royalty sharing from offshore production. We have committed to the petroleum university. The land for the university is being finalised by the state government. Also, the gas producing state will get a major share of CSR funds," he added.

He also announced that the

central government will partner with the AP government in developing a "Carbon free Andhra" by enhancing the utilisation of biodiesel-blended fuel that will reduce the import burden on the country and also develop a market to monetise waste generated from farm produce and waste oil.

Meanwhile, CM Naidu said that elaborate brainstorming sessions were held on future of Andhra Pradesh as an oil hub. "The state has a great opportunity in the petroleum sector and it will prove beneficial not only for AP but also for the development of the country," he said.

Mentioning that gas is one

of the major natural wealth of AP, he said that as the Centre has been providing coal auction benefits to respective states, the same should be applied in the case of oil and gas. "We have requested the central government to reconsider our demand for royalty for onshore and offshore production from our state.

GAS BUZZ

▶ Mega petrochemical complex promised for AP

▶ ONGC to commence production for gas in 2018 and oil by 2019

▶ Petroleum minister remains non-committal about royalty to the state from gas produced in the AP

▶ Land for Petroleum University to be finalised soon

Union minister of state for petroleum and natural gas Dharmendra Pradhan and Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the press meet in the city on Thursday



TOI

Even the 19th standing committee on petroleum and natural gas has recommended that royalty should be accorded to gas producing states and we have brought this to the petroleum minister's notice," he added.

He also said that a majority of the corporate social responsibility funds from all public sector undertakings under the ministry of petroleum and natural gas should be allocated for Andhra.

Keeping in mind that AP will become a petrochemical as well as logistics hub, Naidu said that the central government has been urged to start the petroleum university in the state from this year. "Petro products will have a major role to play in the future of AP, so we have asked for starting of courses at the Petroleum University from this year onwards," he added.

"We have asked the petroleum ministry for 45 lakh new LPG connections so that 100% of the population will be covered in the state."

A Sarath Kumar

PILLAR TO POST

Dark streets



ti stares at water pollution