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[Other States](#) - [Rajasthan](#)

High quality gas reserves found in Jaisalmer area

Special Correspondent

Quality similar to that found at Miano and Swan fields in Pakistan, says Rajasthan Minister

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- 88 to 91 per cent hydrocarbon found
 - Well has a large quantity of gas: Dave
 - 'Focus to be laid on areas in the district
 - 'It may help augment power generation'
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JAIPUR: High quality gas reserves have been found at a depth of 3,161 metres in an exploratory well drilled in Shahgarh block in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan. The gas was estimated to have 88 to 91 per cent hydrocarbon.

Focus Energy Limited, formerly known as Phoenix Overseas Limited, has made the discovery in the fifth well drilled in the block allotted to it.

State Mines and Petroleum Minister Laxminarain Dave said here on Wednesday that the quality was similar to the gas struck at Miano and Swan fields in Pakistan.

Research activities

Mr. Dave said the discovery -- most significant after the Cairn Energy's finds -- had shown high prospects of hydrocarbon occurrence in Shahgarh sub-basin and would promote research activities and attract investments in the region.

The flow rate of gas was tested with 900- pressure square inch (PSI) for about an hour and no pressure drop was found, indicating that the well had a large quantity of gas, said the Minister.

The testing for reserve estimation was underway by the operator company.

The Central Government had awarded the block to Phoenix Overseas and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in joint venture for an area measuring 5,390 sq km. The operator company has been carrying out exploration in the block since August 1999.

Oil India find

Mr. Dave said the ONGC had so far discovered 2,900 million cubic metres of gas reserves and Oil India had found 9,200 mcm in the region.

Of the four wells drilled by Phoenix Overseas earlier, gas was detected in two, while the fifth well has divulged the presence of high quality gas reserves.

The Minister expressed the hope that the availability of gas would help in augmenting power generation in the desert State and said focus would be laid on other areas in Jaisalmer basin by way of intensive exploration and investments

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