

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION 1321

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1321. Mr P D Dexter (Cope) to ask the Minister of Energy:

Whether her department has advanced plans to exploit the reserves of natural and methane gas to (a) generate electricity, (b) fuel industries or (c) meet household demand; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the details of these plans? NW1551E

Reply

It is a policy decision within my Department to diversify our energy mix to minimise the country's reliance on coal as the main source of primary energy. Our integrated resource plan (IRP) is very clear in this regard. To demonstrate our seriousness in this regard we are in discussions with our neighbouring countries that have natural gas resources such as Mozambique and Namibia, in particular to explore the possibilities of bringing gas to South Africa.

- (a) The Department is in discussions with a private company to supply about 1500MW from Gas Fired Power Station in the West Coast. A memorandum of agreement will be signed once all the negotiations are finalised. Furthermore, we are in discussions with the Government of Mozambique to explore the possibility of Eskom being involved in Gas to Power projects that would enable South Africa to import some of the electricity.
- (b) My Department is monitoring and investigating the utilization of compressed natural gas (CNG) in the motor industry.
- (c) We are aware of the existence of small pockets of gas in the country that could assist us to meet some of the households energy needs. However, there is still more work that should be done to quantify these resources.