

Letter to editor

Thanks a lot for bringing the special issue of Geohorizons on 'Shale Gas' which contains two informative papers (K.H Hashmy and A. Sarkar) on shale gas reservoirs as well as two papers on shale gas studies from Indian Basin as examples. More elaboration in her paper by A. Sarkar would have been more useful to me (readers). These papers have made this issue of the Geohorizons to be preserved.

The history of energy supply in India has been characterized by a continuous shift from the use of **biomass** in traditional stoves to **fossil fuels** and, later on, **renewable energies**. Due to urbanization, industrialization, and population growth, the demand for energy has grown exponentially. It may be far behind in per capita energy consumption but it is the fourth (not fifth as reported in editorial) largest energy consumer in the world. As per the International Energy Agency report in 2009 and US Energy information administration report 2011 India has fourth largest (After USA, China and Russia) energy consumption in the world. The details and break up as per these reports are reproduced in figure 1 and 2 below. Hence, reported figure of 52 % of energy from Coal; 32 % from Oil and 6 % from natural Gas may be wrong. Shri Mrinal K. Sen, Director, NGRI, Hyderabad might have considered perhaps relatively older data or there is something wrong in my understandings of the statistics. I request you to provide the latest updates on these figures as I could not find the data for 2012 or later. The high rate of increase in energy consumption in India may position it at number three in near future.

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Total Energy Consumption in India by Type (2009):

In 2009, India was the fourth largest energy consumer in the world, after the United States, China, and Russia. Total energy consumption in India by type is:

Coal	: 42 %
Oil	: 24 %
Natural Gas	: 7 %
Combustible Renewables and Waste	: 24 %
Other renewable (wind, geothermal, solar, and hydroelectricity)	: 2 %
Nuclear	: 1 %

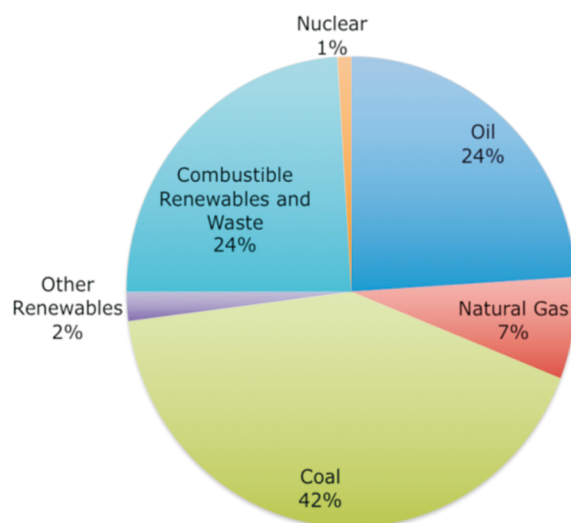


Fig. 1: Credit: The International Energy Agency

Total Energy Consumption in India (2011):

The fourth largest energy consumer after the United States, China, and Russia, India was the 10th largest economy in the world in 2011 growing at an annual rate of approximately 7 percent since 2000, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). The break-up is:

Coal	: 41 %
Petroleum	: 23 %
Natural Gas	: 8 %
Solid Biomass and Waste	: 23 %
Nuclear and Other Renewables	: 5 %

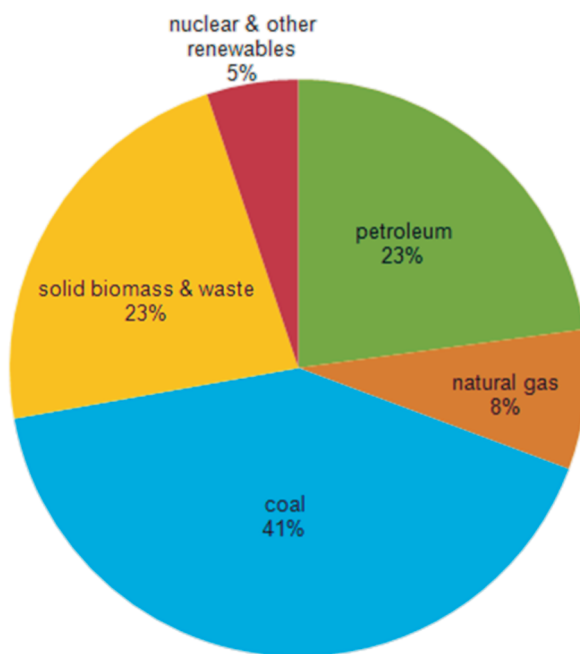


Fig. 2: Source: US Energy Information Administration (EIA)

Editor's Response

Dear Shri Lavendra Kumar

Prof. Mrinal Sen was perhaps referring to the pre-dominance of coal/lignite, liquid/gaseous hydrocarbons in the energy basket of India and the absolute numbers are indicative only. As per recently published report the relative predominance of various energy sources in India during 2011-12 was the following: coal/lignite 80%, natural gas 10%, liquid petroleum 8%, and renewables 2%. Prof. Sen's point is that tight oil sands/siltstones and shale gas sources have gained worldwide importance and constitute an important source of hydrocarbons to be tapped with the advent of horizontal wells and multi-stage hydro-fracturing.

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Editorial Policy

Geohorizons publishes material of relevance to Petroleum Geophysics. Contributions can be in the form of research papers, case histories, tutorials, reviews or interpretation work. Manuscripts on fundamental geophysical principles that are relevant for exploration are also invited. The forum "Points-to-ponder" is meant for discussion on subtle questions of theoretical or practical interest normally not covered in text books or papers. Readers may contribute such a question along with an answer, if known to him. "What's new?" is intended to convey the latest development in a field.

A predominantly mathematical paper should preferably include an illustration or example of its application. The manuscript should include at least one example of synthetic or recorded data to illustrate the technology or concept described in the paper. In addition to technical contributions, readers may submit news related to different professional societies affiliated to Society of Petroleum Geophysicists, India, along with a brief write-up and photographs. Letters to Editor expressing any issue which can enhance the value of the periodical are welcome.

Technical papers, case histories, tutorials, require an abstract. Authors should confine their papers to ten (10) journal pages or fewer, including figures. The intent of the length restriction is to improve clarity by encouraging authors to organize and focus their writing.

Geohorizons encourages authors of works presented at SPG biennial conferences to submit expanded, journal quality versions of their work for consideration of publication in Geohorizons.

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