

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1991

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2000

PERMISSION TO ONGC FOR TAKING EXPLORATION WORKS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

RAMDAS ATHAWALE

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Union Government has decided to allow all oil companies like ONGC to take up exploration and drilling activities in other countries as well;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which this decision is likely to help the Indian Government; and
- (d) the countries where exploration of oil has been undertaken?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (d) : With a view to reduce the present gap between the domestic production and demand for petroleum, the Public Sector Undertakings of the oil sector are being encouraged to take up exploration and production activities in the country and abroad. ONGC-Videsh Limited has carried out exploration activities in Tunisia (1995-96), Egypt (1996-97), Yemen (1996-97) and Vietnam.