

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5974
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
ONGC PACT WITH IRAQ
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited has signed a pact with Iraq to explore oil in their country;
- (b) if so, the details of the ventures;
- (c) the manner in which ONGC has qualified to explore oil in foreign countries
- (d) whether the Government has reviewed the exploration performance of ONGC in India as a first step;
- (e) if so, whether ONGC has not found reasonable oil sources in India after Mumbai High was found by the then USSR; and
- (f) the steps to be taken to review such ventures by ONGC?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a) & (b): ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) signed a contract with the Oil Exploration Company of the Ministry of Iraq on 28.11.2000 for exploration Block-8 located in the southern most part of Western Desert of Iraq. The contract is to be ratified by the Government of Iraq before it comes into force.

(c): OVL, the fully owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has adopted a focussed strategy for availing opportunities of hydrocarbon exploration and production in selected countries and has been involved in acquisition of exploration acreages and oil fields abroad to supplement domestic production of crude oil and natural gas to provide energy security for the country.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e): The then USSR was associated in carrying out seismic survey in the Western offshore in 1964. ONGC initiated a systematic seismic survey in Mumbai High offshore basin in 1971 in association with international contractor, which resulted in identification of Mumbai High and several other structures, viz. Bassein, Panna, Heera, Neelam Gandhar etc.

In the post-Mumbai High scenario, ONGC brought Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basins of east coast offshore and adjoining onland areas into the producing fold.

(f): Such ventures are reviewed by the Board of Directors of the company which has nominated directors from concerned Ministries, followed by a Committee of Secretaries constituted by the Government.