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

(a): the details of foreign companies or the agencies involved in Oil and Gas exploration in the North-East;

(b): the on-going exploration sites in the North-East;

(c): whether the Barak basin is within the purview of exploration; and

(d): if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2705 to be answered on 1.8.2002 regarding Foreign Companies involved in Exploration in North-East

(a): At present, four foreign companies, namely, M/s Tullow India Operations Ltd., M/s Canaro Resources Ltd., M/s Centurion Energy International Inc., and M/s Hardy Exploration & Production India Ltd., are involved in exploration activities in North-Eastern region.

(b): In addition to the exploration activities undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) within their areas of operation in North-Eastern region, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed with private/joint venture for four exploration blocks, viz. CR-ON-90/1 falling in the States of Assam and Mizoram, AS-ONN-2000/1 falling in the State of Assam, block AAP-ON-94/1 falling in the States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, and AA-ON-7 in the States of Assam and Nagaland in the region.

(c) & (d): The Barak Valley is the part of Cachar area of Assam and Assam Arakan basin, PSC for exploration block "CR-ON-90/1" in the Barak Valley has been signed with the consortium of Essar Oil Ltd., Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd. and Tullow India Operations Ltd. on 30.6.1998, in which exploration work is in progress.