

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4816
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2002
SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN CRUDE OIL
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to increase its self-sufficiency in crude oil from the present 30% to 50% over the next five years by tapping unexplored basins;
- (b) if so, the details of unexplored basins being targeted;
- (c) whether any preliminary surveys been done of such basins;
- (d) if so, whether additional investment is needed; and
- (e) if so, the details of fresh investment required for this purpose over the next three years?

Answer

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

(a) Given the increasing demand for petroleum products, it is difficult to envisage self-sufficiency in crude oil in the near future. However to impart greater thrust to exploration and production of oil & gas in the country, the Government has formulated New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Under three rounds of NELP, exploration blocks from onland, offshore and deepwater areas including hitherto unexplored or poorly explored basins have been offered.

(b) The blocks from the following less explored or unexplored basins can also be considered for inclusion in the future rounds of NELP based on minimum geo-scientific criteria.

- (i) Deepwater West Coast
- (ii) Deepwater Southern Tip of India
- (iii) North East Coast
- (iv) West Bengal Onshore and Offshore
- (v) Kutch-Saurashtra Onshore and Offshore
- (vi) Mahanadi Basins Onshore and Offshore
- (vii) Ganga Valley
- (viii) Himalayan Foothills
- (ix) Vindhyan Basin
- (x) Pranhita-Godavari basin
- (xi) Gondvana
- (xii) Purnia basin
- (xiii) Palar

(c) to (e):- Exploration blocks from the basins are carved out based on the pre-exploratory surveys made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), for which sufficient funds are available annually. Moreover, investment in the exploration blocks awarded under NELP depends upon the work programme bid by the awardees.