

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:675
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003
JOINT EXPLORATION BY INDIA AND SRI LANKA
A.F. GOLAM OSMANI;KAMAL NATH

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

- (a) whether India and Sri Lanka have jointly decided for oil exploration recently;
- (b) if so, whether discussions were held with the Sri Lankan Government on the issue in the month of May 2003;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which the Government is likely to be benefited by such joint venture with Sri Lanka?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) to (c) : Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has informed that during the visit of their officials to Sri Lanka in February 2003, a suggestion was made by IOC to Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC), the National Oil Company of Sri Lanka that IOC along with Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) could join CPC in their exploration efforts in nominated acreages in the strait of Palar and Gulf of Mannar located in the geographical proximity to the Cauvery basin of India.

(d) : As the legal framework for offering exploration blocks under Production Sharing Contract basis, has not been finalized by the Sri Lankan Government as of date, and keeping in mind the uncertainties of exploration of hydrocarbons it is not possible to identify the likely benefits from the proposed joint venture.