

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1512  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003  
HIRING OF OIL BLOCKS BY ONGC IN LIBYA  
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

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

- (a) whether the ONGC propose to hire Oil blocks in Lybia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount likely to be incurred on it; and
- (d) the expected profit likely to be accrued on it?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has acquired 49% participating interest in two exploration blocks, NC-188 and NC-189, in Libya from Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company.

Block NC-188, measuring 6558 sq. km., falling in Ghadames Basin, is about 250 Km. south of Tripoli, the capital of Libya and Block NC-189, measuring 2088 sq. km. located in Sirte Basin, is about 850 km. south-east of Tripoli.

(c) : OVL's share of expenditure towards fulfilling exploration work commitments in both the blocks is estimated to be around US\$ 30 million (Rs. 141 crore, approximately); likely to be incurred over a period of two years.

(d) : The outcome of the exploration in these blocks is not known as of date.