

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:243

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003

DISCOVERY OF MICROBES FOR OIL EXTRACTION

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether scientists at the Energy and Resources Institute and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation have discovered and developed microbes that help in the extraction of oil from sick oil wells;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) to what extent the new technique for revival of sick oil wells has been helpful;
- (e) the total number of sick oil wells at present; and
- (f) the number out of them helped by this new technique?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION 243 BY SARVA/SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ AND IQBAL AHMED SARADGI TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2003 REGARDING DISCOVERY OF MICROBES FOR OIL EXTRACTION

(a) to (f): The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have jointly developed Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery (MEOR) Technique, which is at field trial stage. The Technology has been applied to 15 low productivity ONGC wells of Cambay onland basin in the State of Gujarat, that is, 9 wells in Kalol, 1 each in Limbodra and North Kadi and 4 wells in Sobhashan fields.

The MEOR Technique is applicable to certain specific reservoir conditions and oil type conditions to enhance oil production from low producing wells and is not applicable for revival of sick wells in general.

As on 1.10.2003, the total number of sick oil wells in ONGC is about 475 in onland areas and 35 in offshore areas.