

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3001  
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003  
DRILLING IN NATIONAL PARK BY ONGC  
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision on the request of the ONGC to drill in the desert National Park in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the compensation to be paid by the ONGC;
- (d) the details of animals which will be affected adversely due to the exploration work of ONGC; and
- (e) the alternative refuge earmarked for these animals?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) to (c) No proposal for diversion of National Park area for exploratory drilling was submitted by the ONGC to Government. However, the ONGC had filed an Interlocutory Application No. 22 and 23 in Civil Writ Petition number 337 of 1995 in the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India to issue directions to Government to grant permission for exploratory survey in the Desert National Park. The matter was referred by Hon`ble Supreme Court to the Standing Committee of Indian Board for Wild Life for its consideration. The Standing Committee considered the matter and recommended to the Hon`ble Supreme Court that permission may be granted for diversion of 24.5 hectare area for exploratory survey and ancillary works in the Desert National Park. The recommendation was, inter alia, accepted by the Supreme Court, who in conclusion asked the ONGC to pay a compensation of Rs.two crores.

(d) & (e) The permission to ONGC is only for exploratory works in a small area of 24.5 hectares of the total area of 316200 hectares of Desert National Park and it is not likely to have any permanent impact on the wild animals in the national park.