

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1890  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2000  
EXPLORATION OF OIL  
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**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Government are giving emphasis on oil exploration;
- (b) if so, whether oil PSUs have come up with some proposals to increase the intensity of oil exploration;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government propose to freeze the surplus funds available with the PSUs oil companies and divert them to fruitful investment; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a)to(c): A focused exploration approach, as below is being adopted by the National Oil Companies (NOCs) viz. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd.(OIL):-

(i) ONGC

- exploring for the deeper objectives and stratigraphic plays in the producing basin.
- opening up of onland frontier sectors, by planning and taking up exploratory drilling at Himalayan foothills, Vindhyan basin and Mesozoic in Kutch offshore (Pretrappeans), etc.
- better imaging of geologically complex terrains through improved data acquisition, processing and interpretation.
- undertaking an ambitious deep-water exploration programme under which ONGC has drilled four wells in its deepwater PELs during the last three years (1997-2000) and envisages drilling of eight wells in the period 2000-2002.

(ii) OIL

- drilling exploratory wells in the deeper prospects in the South Bank of river Brahmaputra and continuing exploratory work in North Bank of river Brahmaputra in Assam.
- undertaking survey in Brahmaputra river bed in Assam.
- taking Geo-scientific studies to identify new plays and prospects in South Bank of river Brahmaputra.
- exploring through joint venture in Assam- Arakan Basin.
- undertaking additional exploration efforts in Rajasthan, Ganga basin, UP and Saurashtra offshore.

(iii) To enhance their exploration activities ONGC and OIL have participated in NELP-99 round.

(d)&(e): Oil PSUs have generally no long term surplus funds available with them. The temporary surplus funds available with oil PSUs are utilised by them for their various ongoing projects or short term deposits in the Banks etc. as per the guidelines laid down by Department of Public Enterprises.